Daily Report

East Europe

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CSFR Minister Appeals to Pact on Disarmament

LD1710090990 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0800 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Jiri Dienstbier, minister of foreign affairs, has strongly appealed to his allies in the Warsaw Pact not to block the Paris summit next month, the subject of which is to be the reduction of conventional weapons in Europe. He told a British correspondent that the democracies in Eastern Europe should not be responsible for blocking an agreement on conventional disarmament. There is disagreement within the Warsaw Pact, however, on the question of the distribution of tanks which complicates the final text of an agreement due to be signed at a summit meeting of signatory countries of the Helsinki conference.

Hungary's Fur, Pact Forces Commander Hold Talks

LD1210225290 Budapest MTI in English 1754 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 12 (MTI)—Minister of Defence Lajos Fur on Friday [12 October] met Army General Petr Lushev, commander-in-chief of the United Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty member states. The meeting [words indistinct] on the request of the commander-in-chief, said Colonel Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence, told MTI.

At the talks, the Hungarian side reconfirmed its earlier declared position maintained at the talks to date, according to which the Republic of Hungary will withdraw from the military organization of the Warsaw Treaty by the end of next year, inasmuch as the military federation is not dissolved by then. Mr Fur stressed that, at the same time, Hungary strives to create good-neighbourly relations with all neighbouring states, including the Soviet Union, and encourages the development of bilateral relations, including military relations, on new bases.

Also present at the meeting was Lieutenant General Antal Annus, administrative secretary of state of the Ministry of Defence, Lieutenant General Kalman Lorincz, commander of the Hungarian Army, and Army General Vladimir Lobov, chief of staff of the united armed forces.

Army General Petr Lushev and his party, who spent the greater part of their working visit at the command post of the Soviet Southern Army Group in Hungary, left Budapest on Friday afternoon.

Pact Leaders Meet Bulgarian Defense Leadership

AU1510190290 Sofia BTA in English 1840 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, October 15 (BTA)—Army General P. G. Lushev, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Treaty Joint Armed Forces, and Army General V. N. Lobov, chief of staff of the Warsaw Treaty Joint Armed Forces, today had a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of National Defense of Bulgaria. The two sides exchanged views on some current problems.

Hungary, Poland, CSFR Form Consultative Committee

LD1810162290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0530 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary will establish a consultative committee at the deputy foreign minister level to facilitate the solution of common problems in the region. This was decided yesterday [17 October] at the deputy foreign ministerial meeting held in the Polish capital. A decision was also made to form working groups which would prepare for the joint statement to be signed at the end of the year and they would work out proposals on the future relations of the three countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Examines Pact's Future

AU1710105790 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 15 Oct 90 p 4

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Enyo Savov by Senior Lieutenant Krasimir Uzunov; place and date not given: "From Combat Fraternity to Political Cooperation"—first four paragraphs are NARODNA ARMIYA introduction]

[Text] What is going to be the future of the Warsaw Pact? What guarantees for its national security will Bulgaria have after its military functions are terminated? What is reasonable sufficiency in reducing our Armed Forces and weapons when we take into consideration the fact that we are not located in Central Europe but at the southern flank, and moreover at the line of direct contact! Will we feel as secure tomorrow as we were until yesterday, despite the fact that we were burdened by ideological dogmas?

We do not have to hide anything—these are some of the questions with which we shall greet the signing of the final document of the Vienna talks in Paris on 19-20 November. These questions have been prompted by our tense daily life, the political confrontation, and the striving to bind our national interests to specific political gains.

In the days before the 3-4 November Budapest meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee, which will clarify these questions to a large degree, we are publishing the opinions of our military experts and diplomats in several consecutive issues of our newspaper.

Today Enyo Savov, deputy minister of foreign affairs and long-time leader of the Bulgarian delegation to the talks on limiting arms and armed forces, answers questions of a representative of our editorial board.

[Uzunov] Mr. Savov, what is the state of the talks between the Warsaw Pact member states on determining the quotas of the Armed Forces of each of them?

[Savov] The regular session of the Warsaw Pact Special Commission on disarmament took place last week in Prague. The task was to set the level of the weapons that will remain in the separate countries after the limitations based on the Vienna talks go into effect. The commission's work is taking place within the Warsaw Pact and it is preparing for the successful signing of the Paris Treaty in November.

Three meetings have taken place up to now—the first was in Bratislava and there were two in Prague. The levels of combat aircraft, combat helicopters, and the ground forces' combat vehicles have been coordinated. The quotas for tanks and artillery remain open—33.30 percent sufficiency for tanks and 34.70 percent sufficiency for the artillery. These quotas will be discussed at the next meeting, on 26 and 27 October in Prague.

[Uzunov] What is the source of the difficulties at the talks?

[Savov] The difficulties come from many directions. The sufficiency percentage for several kinds of weapons in some of the countries is different. The components of national security for a country are also different for every country. At the same time the allies' obligations are decreasing.

Hungary's geostrategic situation is such that it is prepared to lower its quotas even more. On the other hand, the creation of a unified German state prompted Poland and Czechoslovakia to request an increase in their quotas. Bulgaria, Romania, and the USSR have the most acute problems.

We already have an agreement in principle that by the end of 1991 the military organization of the Warsaw Pact will cease to exist.

During the talks there is an argument virtually about every military unit. Every country has the right to protect its national interests. Our delegation also had a similar approach. It defends the issue of the quantity of weapons our country needs in order to maintain a normal balance of power with our neighbors. In order to be able to rely on an adequate response on the part of the Bulgarian People's Army in the event of a military conflict, it is necessary to maintain a ratio of 1:2 in favor of the enemy.

[Uzunov] How was the last USSR-U.S. disarmament agreement, also known as the Shevardnadze-Baker agreement, received?

[Savov] The New York agreement gives a certain advantage to the USSR where the sufficiency percentage has been finally fixed. The agreement was contested by other countries and it has been proposed that the agreement be reviewed.

[Uzunov] Can we seek the future of the Warsaw Pact in its past?

[Savov] Undoubtedly, the future of the Warsaw Pact is related to its past. It would be unrealistic to separate them. The new relations of the USSR with the other members of the organization produced new relations among the organization members themselves. It was not by accident that a group of representatives was established which is working to develop new visions about the Warsaw Pact and the future of mutual relations within the pact. I repeat—the pact's future lies in political cooperation. Military cooperation will not only become secondary, but will probably disappear.

[Uzunov] How would you comment on the separatist tendencies within the Pact?

[Savov] Much has been said and written about separatist tendencies within the Warsaw Pact, but it is too early to say anything definite. For the time being only Hungary has declared its intention to leave the Pact.

[Uzunov] Are there contradictions among the allies?

[Savov] I would not call them contradictions. The processes that are now developing in the East European countries are more or less identical. I do not think that they will lead to antagonistic contradictions between the former allies.

[Uzunov] Are there any differences in setting the quotas for the countries of the southern flank?

[Savov] The issue of the regional quotas has not been fully clarified at the Vienna talks. It has not been established what Soviet military okrugs will be classified as being a part of the southern flank, and what okrugs will not be classified as such. There is a great dispute about the Kiev military okrug. There is an agreement that the number of tanks on the southern flank will be 4,700. For the Warsaw Pact, these will be the tanks of the Soviet military okrugs (which have been determined), Romania, and Bulgaria, while for NATO the tanks of Turkey and Greece. There is an additional agreement between the USSR and the United States on adding 600 tanks to each flank.

[Uzunov] Against the background of everything that has been said so far, how would you comment on the position of Turkey and its declaration that it will not reduce its Armed Forces and weapons?

[Savov] If Turkey withdraws the necessary amount of troops from Europe, it can refrain from any reductions. However, its quota will also be fixed both at the national and regional levels. A system of inspections will be worked out in order to control the implementation of the agreement and guarantee security.

Reportage on Role in Gulf Crisis

Army Should Join UN Forces

AU1810194190 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 17 Oct 90 p 1

[Commentary by Major Lyubomir Denov: "Bulgarian 'Blue Helmets?'"]

[Text] I would not like to guess what the Grand National Assembly will decide on the question of dispatching a Bulgarian military unit to the Persian Gulf. However, basing my thoughts on the guidelines along which the president of the Republic intends to look for new guarantees safeguarding our national security, I reached the conclusion that it is high time for Bulgaria to have its own "blue helmets," regardless of the question whether the National Assembly will say "yes," or "no" to the president's idea. Those who wish to rely on global guarantees for their own security should be ready to assist their brothers who share the same fate. Experience, however, shows that such functions can only be entrusted to highly trained professionals. The participants in the "Shield '82" [Warsaw Pact] military exercises presumably remember that the Poles had established such a military unit in those days which was subsequently successfully involved in some UN protective operations.

What should prevent us from establishing such a battalion of carefully selected officers and soldiers, while the National Assembly deputies are discussing the issue in the mean time, and also take care of the special military equipment required? Whether we participate in the Persian Gulf events, or not, such a subunit could join in other operations of the UN Multinational Forces. This I am, at least, convinced of.

There is something more: What should prevent us from experimenting with the idea of a professional army in connection with establishing such a battalion? This is more or less what is awaiting us in the future. Hence, it would be appropriate to seize the opportunity which emerges at this early stage of testing whether the idea of a Bulgarian mercenary army [naemna armiya] is feasible, or not.

Volunteers Asked To Muster in Sofia

AU2010202590 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Here is an announcement: At the initiative of some of the volunteers who have registered for participation in the limited Bulgarian contingent in the Persian Gulf and the interim initiative group which carried out the registration, a muster is to be held of the volunteers who have registered as of 20 October 1990. The muster will take place in the garden in front of the Sofia Theater in the capital from 1030 [0830 GMT] tomorrow, Sunday. The initiative committee invites all volunteers who have registered to attend.

Political Delegation Departs for Iraq

AU2210102690 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] An official Bulgarian delegation led by Atanas Semerdzhiev, vice president and special envoy of President Zhelyu Zhelev and the Bulgarian Government, departed today for Iraq. The delegation includes representatives of the basic political forces represented in the Grand National Assembly, among them Ognyan (?Kirchev), Belcho Belchev, and Stoyan Ganev.

The special Bulgarian envoys departed for Iraq in order to conduct talks at the highest level for the return of the 694 Bulgarian citizens who are at present in Iraq.

The concern for our patriots prompts us to follow the visit with special interest and hope.

Zhelev Receives Letter, Support From Mitsotakis

AU1810210890 Sofia BTA in English 1851 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 18 Oct (BTA)—In a letter to Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic, Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis, prime minister of Greece, expresses support for the great efforts of the Bulgarian president towards turning Bulgaria into a modern and democratic country in a peaceful and stable Balkans.

The Greek head of government emphasizes that the cooperation between the two countries is a factor of stability in the Balkans. Expressing the feelings of the Greek people in view of the serious circumstances in Bulgaria, Mr. Konstandinos Mitsotakis assures Dr. Zhelev that Bulgaria can rely on Greece's moral and

material support and that at the European Council in Rome next week it will ask its EC partners to give Bulgaria some active assistance. The letter was handed to Dr. Zhelev by the Greek ambassador here.

Plane With Medical Aid Arrives From Greece

AU1910211890 Sofia BTA in English 2055 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 19 Oct9 (BTA)—Ten tons of medicines mainly against hepatitis and cholera amounting to 400 thousand dollars' worth arrived from Greece at the Sofia Airport today. This is the first consignment of humanitarian aid granted to Bulgaria by decision of the Greek Government in response to President Zhelyu Zhelev's request.

According to Mr. Kiropoulos, adviser of the minister of health of Greece, in five or six days another aircraft carrying food stuffs will land in Sofia.

The relief that comes to Bulgaria not only from Greece but from other countries as well will be distributed by an aid agency set up with the Presidency and comprising representatives of the Grand National Assembly, the government and the parliamentary political forces. Its work will be given full publicity. Distribution will be carried out with the consent of the donors and they will be given the possibilities of exercising control.

Coverage of Grand National Assembly Crisis

SDS Leader Interviewed

AU1910114290 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Interview with Union of Democratic Forces Chairman Petur Beron by unidentified announcer in Sofia on 19 October—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Let us immediately proceed to the events at the Grand National Assembly. As you know, the Grand National Assembly was interrupted yesterday, and there was no session this morning. It has been postponed for the afternoon, but its beginning is still unscheduled. What is your opinion on the reasons for all these developments, Mr. Beron?

[Beron] You know that we walked out of the session yesterday, expressing our protest against the objection of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] to the depoliticization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which had already been decided at a meeting of the Legislative Commission with the participation of BSP representatives, who subsequently withdrew their consent. We considered this attitude to be unserious and unconstructive, and as a result of this we expressed our protest by walking out of the session. For us this is a very important draft project and we think that party control over important state institutions, such as those enumerated in the draft project, should no longer continue. We think that parliament should proceed as was agreed at the Legislative Commission.

[Announcer] In view of this situation, how does the Union of Democratic Forces see the future development during next week at the Grand National Assembly?

[Beron] In addition to this, [passage indistinct]. Mr. Lukanov subsequently specified that he is not against the debates taking place, but against excessively protracting the debates. He is expected to hold consultations with the president, and perhaps this meeting might produce some more constructive solutions. We are not against speeding up the debates at the Grand National Assembly, on the contrary, we would like to adopt all important draft laws on property, on the land, and on other issues, as soon as possible. It is of no advantage for us to protract the duration of the Grand National Assembly, quite on the contrary, we support the requirement that it should close its work by adopting the new constitution as soon as possible, so that we may proceed toward elections for a normal parliament.

[Announcer] Mr. Beron, I understand that you are now going to a meeting with the president. What do you expect from it?

[Beron] As usual, our attitude is most constructive, and we have no intention whatsoever of provoking a crisis, neither parliamentary, nor any other crisis. However, we are not afraid of such crises, considering that we are in the advantageous position of claiming that our rating in recent public opinion polls has increased considerably, while the BSP's rating has dropped considerably. This means that no matter what elections we should expect, they will be to our advantage. Therefore, the BSP has a much greater reason to avoid any parliamentary, or other crisis.

Holding of Session Discussed

AU1910130090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1200 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] We finally have some information from the president of the Republic's headquarters where, as we already announced in our previous news program, the leaders of the major political parties and the Grand National Assembly Bureau met at President Zhelyu Zhelev's initiative.

As our reporter Yasen Indzhev just announced on the telephone, certain circumstances connected with parliament debates on the government program were discussed at the meeting. The crisis provoked by the request for the exemption of the foreign service from the amendments to the law on political parties related to the depoliticization of national institutions was also discussed.

According to our reporter, agreement was so far reached only on holding meetings of the parliamentary groups to decide whether a plenary session should take place this afternoon.

Stoyanov on Political Forces Meeting

AU1910135390 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1244 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Statement by presidential spokesman Valentin Stoyanov on meeting of Bulgarian "political forces" held at the Office of the President in Sofia on 19 October—live or recorded]

[Text] The meeting which was held a short while ago served the purpose of discussing disputed questions and trying to reach agreement on the beginning of the plenary session at the Grand National Assembly. It was not a question of such consultations replacing parliamentary debates. On the contrary, this is a normal political practice all over the world, namely that the political forces of parliament should hold consultations before adopting certain major decisions.

All participants expressed gratitude to the president for convening the meeting. It was a timely meeting, and as early as on Tuesday, 22 October, namely in three days, a similar meeting is scheduled.

The president of the country once more expressed his support for the Lukanov program, considering that this program must be implemented regardless of what government rules the country in the future. Andrey Lukanov himself suggested that a similar program is hardly likely to win any elections.

There was argument on the question whether the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] is entitled to work according to this program, considering that it won the last elections with a very different program. The general evaluation was that there should be political cooperation between individual parties and unions, in order to win public support for the government in charge of implementing the reform. This also applies to the goal of winning the support of the world public for Bulgaria. We certainly need such support. The sooner we implement the reforms, the sooner the IMF, the World Bank, and individual countries will accord us their assistance.

Great attention was also devoted to the work of parliament, especially after last night's session, during which the deputies of the Union of Democratic Forces left the hall, while the deputies of the BSP are obstructing certain draft laws.

I can point out that the political forces agreed to meet through their parliamentary groups to decide whether a plenary session of the Grand National Assembly will take place tonight, as a positive result of the meeting.

The possibility of preparing a timetable on the work of the Grand National Assembly on the basis of which it should adopt the most important laws was discussed. All political forces criticized the work of the National Assembly. The general opinion is that, while the parliament is working, it could work much more efficiently.

The major assessment on which all political forces agreed was that this Grand National Assembly is a constitutional assembly that is expected to draft the country's constitution. As you see, for the time being the deputies are dealing with other questions.

Therefore, the future efforts of parliament should concentrate primarily on drafting the constitution, which could be done step by step, and there is a real chance that the basic principles for a new Bulgarian constitutions may be completed by New Year 1991, or shortly after New Year 1991.

Next Session To Be 24 Oct

AU1910150090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] As the spokesman for President Zhelyu Zhelev announced 75 minutes ago, consultations have been taking place between the parliamentary groups of the Grand National Assembly to reach a consensus on whether of not to hold a plenary session today. Our reporter Liliyana Yancheva who is in the radio studio at parliament will perhaps be able to provide an answer to this question.

[Yancheva] We have already been waiting ourselves for several hours for the plenary session, and I will answer at once that there will be no plenary session today. According to an announcement which we have just received, the Bureau of the Grand National Assembly announces that the next plenary session will be held on Wednesday 24 October, beginning at 1500 [1300 GMT]. To prepare questions for the parliamentary agenda for the next two weeks, the standing parliamentary commissions are working according to the programs which they have announced.

In addition, I can add that despite the fact that there is no plenary session today, we will report on what has happened inside and outside of parliament today in our newscast this evening at 2030.

Further on Meeting With President

AU1910183890 Sofia BTA in English 1814 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Sofia, 19 Oct (BTA)—President Zhelev has expressed again his support for the programme Premier Lukanov presented to the Bulgarian parliament on October 10. The programme must be carried out no matter what government may come to power, Dr. Zhelev underlined.

This morning the meeting of the president, organized at his initiative, with the leaders of the major political forces and the Parliamentary Bureau was almost four hours long. Although it was convened, the sitting of the Grand National Assembly was not held this morning. [passage omitted]

No one of the participants in the meeting is willing to engage himself with more detailed information, a commentary or prediction. Nobody knows what decision the members of parliament will make—obviously the leaders have no control over the parliamentary factions, the spokesman said.

There are grounds to expect that the basic principles of the new constitution will have been worked out by New Year, which is the most important task the Grand National Assembly has got to carry out, the spokesman said. President Zhelev and the leaders of the major political forces also discussed the work of the parliament which, according to everybody's opinion, is too slow.

Asked if there would be new parliamentary elections, the spokesman stressed that it would not be to the interest of the Bulgarian Socialist Party or the Union of Democratic Forces. "Impossible," he said, answering the question if it was possible to establish presidential power. "It would be a kind of establishing dictatorship," he said.

The Bureau of the Grand National Assembly decided to hold the next parliamentary sitting on Wednesday, October 24.

Crisis Seen as 'Hardly Likely'

AU1910195990 Sofia BTA in English 1848 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 19 Oct (BTA)—A parliamentary crisis is hardly likely. At today's consultations held by the political forces it became clear that we can reach an agreement on all points of issue, the spokesman for the opposition Union of Democratic Forces, Mr. Stoyan Ganev, told a BTA reporter. According to information received in the lobbies, if the opposition really walks out of parliament and new parliamentary elections are held, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) [SDS] , the Bulgarian Agrarian Party and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms will be running with a common list.

Yesterday, after the opposition walked out of the plenary hall because the Socialists refused to vote for the depoliticization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, some UDF members of parliament expressed the opinion that the opposition should leave the parliament at all. [sentence as received] "They are flushed with their own rating at the moment," a Socialist M.P. said in this connection.

According to the UDF spokesman the participants in today's consultations almost reached an agreement on the depoliticization of diplomats, making an exception for ambassadors. The latter will have merely to freeze their membership in the respective political party while holding the post.

The programme of the new government was another point of controversy which was debated at today's consultations. The opposition insists that the adoption of the programme should be bound to certain political guarantees on the part of the Socialists concerning the property of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) and the new companies set up by this party. The UDF considers that the ruling Socialist Party must admit the programme of the one-party government is entirely different from the BSP election platform and that in essence it is the platform of the UDF.

"We lost the elections, because in our platform we told the truth to the Bulgarian people earlier," Mr. Stoyan ganev pointed out.

"We are like two bad students cribbing from a third one," Premier Lukanov said, commenting on the argument in an unofficial conversation with journalists, probably hinting that the excellent studies were the American experts. The possibility of the present government giving in its resignation and forming a new programme government with the participation of the opposition is not to be ruled out.

Today the question of Bulgaria's position on the Gulf crisis was considered. According to unofficial information the opposition will insist that the Bulgarian parliament should back up President Zhelev's idea to send a Bulgarian military unit to Saudi Arabia.

If the Socialists oppose this, there will probably be a parliamentary crisis, an opposition M.P. who preferred to remain anonymous considers.

There is a tendency of our positions' drawing closer, Mr. Aleksandur Tomov, a member of parliament of the BSP, said, giving his opinion on today's consultations. The major political forces will resume their talks on Tuesday [23 October].

Right-Wing Parties Discuss Forming Bloc

AU2010195690 Sofia BTA in English 1830 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Sofia, 20 Oct (BTA)—The leaderships of the right-wing parties of the non-parliamentary opposition held a conference here to discuss the establishment of a right-wing bloc in the near future. According to the speakers the leftist trends characterizing the present political situation should be opposed. An opinion was expressed that the Grand National Assembly is not legitimate. In this connection the possibilities to fight the ruling party and the "new pseudo-democrats" were considered. The leaders of the right- wing parties came to the conclusion that the time has come to join efforts and resist the "emerging new totalitarianism" in the country. It was suggested to convene a national conference of the right-wing parties and movements at which "the new constitution of Bulgaria should be constituted," the date for local authorities elections should be fixed and after them new parliamentary elections should be held under the aegis of the United Nations.

The president of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation, Dr. Konstantin Trenchev, who was invited to the conference as a guest, made a speech.

Burgas Petrochemical Workers Threaten To Strike

AU1910164590 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] A big rally was held today at the Burgas Petrochemical Combine. The rally, which was organized by the Podkrepa Trade Union and the Independent Trade Union of the Petrochemical Workers, adopted a declaration to send to the Council of Ministers and the Grand National Assembly.

The declaration calls upon the government to ensure petroleum deliveries in sufficient amounts to guarantee the full occupation of the production capacities and normal working for the many-thousand-strong labor collective. The declaration also demands that solutions be found for certain pressing problems, that additional leave be granted for work under the temporary conditions up to the full permitted leave entitlement, and that the pensions of long-serving petrochemical workers be increased in accordance with the particular job category. The declaration also insists that petrochemical workers be granted monthly gasoline and naphtha allowances at reduced prices, as well as travel tickets and other privileges.

If the demands are not satisfied before 30 October, it is stated that warning strike will be called for 1 November, which may develop into an effective strike.

Increase in Electricity, Heating Prices Proposed

AU1910193990 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The Energy Industry Committee has proposed an increase in the prices of electricity and thermal energy to the Committee on Prices and the government. It is envisaged that the average price of one kilowatt-hour of electricity will be nine stotinki, representing a increase of 174.6 percent, while one gigacalorie will cost 30 leva, or three times more than the price paid until now for thermal energy.

According to Mr. Khalachev, first deputy chairman of the committee, the increases are required because the sector is subsidized, and now faces the transition to a market economy. He emphasized that the prices of electric power for industrial production will tend to rise faster than the price of electricity for domestic consumption.

According to what Mr. Khalachev said, during the autumn and winter it is not certain whether there will be sufficient supplies of electricity and thermal energy, and that we may find it too cold or hot, but at the moment it is impossible to say when or by how much. There will be difficulties, and we will have to impose restrictions on consumption, first by industrial enterprises, and then in our homes. At the moment the rate of consumption is alarming.

Sofia Gas Stations Receive Fresh Supplies

AU2010151490 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0600 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] We have just received an announcement that all the 24-hour gas stations in Sofia are at the moment receiving deliveries of gasoline. This news will reassure all those who are waiting at the gas stations. People in possession of coupons can be sure that they will be able to fill up their cars.

Parliament Commission Discusses Radio Management

AU1910121890 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] A meeting of the Assembly's Commission on Television and Radio was held this morning. Aleksandur Vladkov, chairman of the Bulgarian Radio Committee, reported on the current state of the structure and management in this national institution. He explained the requirement for considerable changes in the structure of Bulgarian radio which was adjusted to serve a certain ideological trend in the past. It is necessary to abolish several control links, Aleksandur Vladkov stressed. He also requested the introduction of individual labor contracts for the employees and the establishment of a collective crew system. The democratization of the institution in question was also delayed by the lack of specialized opinion polls on the rating of broadcasts and of their (?contents).

As a national institution the Bulgarian radio needs to be independent so that it may survive under the future market economy conditions and so that it may be capable of coping with the competition of private radio stations, and of engaging in cooperation with foreign radio corporations.

It was pointed out that some artificially maintained broadcasts to foreign countries, there are programs in 12 languages, should be eliminated.

Mr. Vladkov said, in closing his statement, that as a mirror reflecting the current social tension prevailing in our country and in view of the general crisis of human and cultural values, Bulgarian radio more than ever needs a new management with clearly defined tasks which, on the basis of its legitimate authority, should be capable of implementing the urgently required structural and personnel changes.

Havel Interviewed on Reform, Warsaw Pact

LD2110203590 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1315 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Interview with CSFR President Vaclav Havel by correspondent Jiri Vejvoda at the presidential residence of Lany Castle near Prague on 20 October; from the "Conversations at Lany" program—recorded]

[Summary] Vejvoda starts his regular interview with the president by stating that it is taking place after eight weeks, and he asks Havel to recapitulate his last working week. Havel describes his recent short visit to the underground area of the former Stalin monument in Letna in Prague.

Vejvoda asks Havel to recall his 19 October address to the Helsinki Civic Assembly in Prague. Havel talks about the history of the Helsinki process, describing the Helsinki Civic Assembly as a result of many years of contacts between Charter 77 and various civic movements both in the West and the East, various independent groups, peace organizations, and democratic human rights movements, and he recalls the main idea of this movement and its aims.

Answering Vejvoda's question whether he now, as a president, feels more responsibility when making public speeches, Havel says that he does not like having to make impromptu speeches but is unfortunately forced into doing this quite often.

Vejvoda asks Havel about his meeting yesterday with Czechoslovak farmers. Havel explains what happened at that meeting and continues to talk about the problems connected with privatization in agriculture, expressing the need to clearly articulate the agricultural policy, approve appropriate laws, and so forth.

He mentions the vast differences between agriculture in Czechoslovakia and in neighboring Western countries, stressing that we must regain our respect for land, rehabilitate those farmers who suffered under the communists, and encourage potential private farmers.

Vejvoda asks about rehabilitation. Havel describes his meeting with the two ministers of justice and the chairman of the Supreme Court and his findings about the progress of their work concerning rehabilitation. He expresses his hope that the process of rehabilitation will be concluded very soon and with just results.

Vejvoda asks Havel to explain the possible consequences of the appointment of new civilian Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky.

Havel says: "We knew for some time that sooner or later a civilian should hold this post. We discussed this matter many times with General Vacek himself. He himself recognized this and even asked us to look around to find another civilian deputy minister who would look into the problems facing the Armed Forces and who would eventually take over the ministry after him.

"The situation developed in such a way that the time for the replacement of the general by a civilian ripened now for various reasons and it was therefore necessary to appoint a new minister. I believe that in the person of Lubos Dobrovsky the Ministry of National Defense has gotten a truly good minister. I have known him for many years. He is a level-headed and wise but at the same time resolute and energetic man who enjoys authority among generals and the officer corps. Minister Vacek promised to help him in matters in which he would require some information or assistance.

"I think that this will contribute to the stability of our Armed Forces. This is very important because the Armed Forces are one of the basic instruments of power this state possesses and in this period of general uncertainty, when all values are in a state of flux, when the totalitarian system has collapsed but the new democratic one has not yet been built—we are simply building it now—it is during this period that at least one of the instruments of power should be stable, on which we could rely totally. That would be a guarantee of our country's defense capability and its capability to defend the integrity of our state. I believe that under Lubos Dobrovsky's leadership the Armed Forces will play this role, and at the same time I believe that under his leadership public authority will revert back to the Armed Forces, which they lost during past decades.

"We must change our entire military doctrine, restructure the Armed Forces and alter the deployment of units to a considerable degree. Under this new leadership, all demanding tasks will be implemented well."

Vejvoda asks Havel to respond to rumors that a purge is threatening the Armed Forces or their higher echelons.

Havel says: "I do not believe that if a climate of uncertainty prevailed among the officer corps it would contribute to the stability in the Armed Forces and their discipline. Of course, doors must be opened to younger well-educated officers and the command of the Armed Forces must be rejuvenated in a certain way, but I do not believe that it would be a good thing if some kind of precipitous purges were to take place among the officer corps.

"This is a subordinated body in which the lower ranks have to obey those who hold higher ranks and execute orders, and it would not be a good thing that if in such a body a climate of uncertainty, some kinds of doubts and lack of trust in orders, and the like were to prevail. This would not contribute to the stability of the Armed Forces."

Vejvoda then asks: "Mr. President, in these conversations you say from time to time that your role and that of the government and other key agencies of society does not now consist merely in the day-to-day practical steps which the press then goes on to evaluate in its own way, but also in much more far- reaching concepts, such as how to rebuild this society and our country in a completely different way in the world context. So since we

are talking about the Army, and since the Warsaw Pact's Political Consultative Committee is to meet on 3 November, I believe, in Budapest, I am wondering whether our country is intending to put forward new ideas and new proposals in the new conditions?"

Havel responds: "Well, at the previous Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee meeting in Moscow we put forward proposals of our own—resolutions pointing the way to a radical transformation of the Warsaw Pact, and now that is to be followed up by this next meeting at the beginning of November in Budapest at which we will, indeed, be putting forward the proposal that within six months the Joint Command of the Warsaw Pact should be abolished or discontinued, because in the case of any state of war, about two-thirds of our Army is subordinated to that Joint Command.

"This state of affairs ought to be discontinued. The Warsaw Pact ought to continue to exist for a time as a tool in the disarmament talks—as you know, these talks are already taking place between the two pacts, and our counterpart, NATO, cannot be completely abolished immediately because that would, in fact, slow down the disarmament talks—but it should be a truly time-limited political formation. It should no longer be a military pact as such.

"The Warsaw Pact has outlived its day, it has lost its purpose. It came into being as a tool of Stalinist expansion, it was a typical manifestation of our status as a satellite, and it is clear that something must be done about it. If we manage to take this step now, at the beginning of November, before the November Helsinki summit in Paris, then it will truly be a historic event, perhaps just as significant as the recent unification of Germany.

"You are right in saying that perhaps our press sometimes does not pay as much attention to these longer-term fundamental issues as to the day-to-day issues, and I really can imagine that if the resolution is adopted, we will not be able to read about it in our press, even though it amounts to no more than a page and a half, because it will be seen as some kind of not-too-important official text, while spicy items sometimes take up space in the newspapers which could have been given to such longer-term fundamental issues."

Next, Vejvoda says: "You will certainly understand, Mr. President, that I would, to a certain degree, want to defend my colleagues but I shall prefer to switch to another subject because it is a subject which to a certain extent marked a historic event, at least in our country's internal political life. Mr. Vaclav Klaus was elected to head the Civic Forum, which intends to assume more the profile of a political movement or even a party. I believe you met him twice during the past week, within the framework of a working dinner and immediately afterwards at a luncheon. What did you discuss and what is your view on the issue that some people want to divide the roles you play in the development in our society in a rather black and white fashion?"

Havel answers: "I ought to say above all that after the elections into which the Civic Forum entered as a certain political force and which it won in the Czech lands, I felt very intensively, and in this I was not alone, that the Forum ought to strengthen somewhat its leadership, reshape itself in some way, adopt a higher profile, and assume a more visible posture and structure, and that it ought to have at its head a more generally known politician who would represent Civic Forum before the public.

"I have held this view for a long time and I have conveyed this view to the leading officials of Civic Forum and I spoke about this matter at one of the Forum's assemblies, and this has now happened. Vaclav Klaus is a generally well-known personality of our post-November political life, a popular personality, and I believe that it will only help Civic Forum that such a high profile and clear-cut personality has come to stand at the head of it."

Asked whether he considers himself to be a left- or a right-wing politician, Havel says that he had always tried to avoid answering this question and states that the notions of both the right and the left seem to him to be too ideological and he strongly rejects being classified according to his political ideology.

He then continues to say that the notions of the right and the left have their own sort of standard meaning and content in Western democracies but that in our conditions of totalitarianism their meaning and content has been slightly distorted and so made less clear. This is another reason why he tries to avoid such classification.

He then points out that the present turn to the right in politics is not only characteristic of Czechoslovakia but also of other former communist countries since the senseless, inhuman totalitarian system had adhered to the left-wing ideology and thus we all automatically became anti-left-wing—and so, more right-wing. He expresses his conviction that the political spectrum in our country will become stabilized in the course of time and will resemble political spectrums in other Western democracies.

Havel expresses that he is in favor of a very fast and radical reform, but points out that he does not see the market mechanism and fast creation of a market economy to be the final aim, but only a means for creating a wealthier and more prosperous society and thus more a human, just, and dignified life that would have a sort of higher meaning.

The last question deals with Havel's recent meeting with representatives of Czechoslovakia's religious life. Havel calls on all of the churches in Czechoslovakia to keep reminding people of the universal values, the meaning of sacrifice and repentance, and to encourage solidarity, humanity, respect for one's neighbor, compassion, and

love—the values which seem to be disappearing from the public life in this nervous, impatient period.

Premier Calfa Interviewed on Current Issues

AU1910143990 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 15 Oct 90 pp 1, 3

[Interview with CSFR Premier Marian Calfa by Peter Duhan and Milan Richter, in the Federal Government Presidium building; date not given: "A Humble Return to Proven Values"; first paragraph is VEREJNOST introduction]

[Text] Prague (from our editors)—The time is inexorable and so is the reality of the Czechoslovak political scene. It will not be an overstatement if we say that the needle of our political compass deviates, 24 times a day, from the direction set by our reform course. Some of its movements to the left or to the right are natural, and the political representatives of our republics and of our federation anticipate them. There are also movements, however— more dramatic deviations of the needle—signaling a crisis situation. Few citizens will notice that, behind a seemingly unproblematic correction to the course, there are political decisions and solutions which demand an extraordinarily strong will on the part of the responsible politicians and, very often, a complete exhaustion of all mental forces. It is not easy to be a politician today. After exhausting work the day before, which lasted until late at night, the CSFR premier received us in his study in the Federal Government Presidium building shortly after 0900, exactly as was scheduled. The signs of fatigue on his face, as well as his efforts to concentrate on our presence and our objective preparing an interview for our readers about topics agreed beforehand, could not go unnoticed. After a while, sipping strong and refreshing coffee, we all agreed that the topics agreed beforehand would restrain our hands and the interview would sound formal because it would deal with non-topical issues. Marian Calfa dispelled any fears we had that we would have to postpone our conversation: "I have an idea. Let us improvise. In fact, you are journalists and you know best what issues are topical in our country and what questions our citizens are asking today. I suggest that we not let our conversation be limited by any factors, including time." We accepted this offer without question. We spoke with Marian Calfa for two and half hours. We publish the most substantial parts of our interview.

[VEREJNOST] Before we came to your office we had visited the Federal Assembly. It was an intentional visit; above all, we wanted to learn what was behind the appeal made by a number of young deputies from the Student Forum regarding your resignation from the position of premier. We came to the conclusion that the affair was unjustified and, therefore, also unnecessary. The fact, however, is that even an unnecessary stirring up of a hornet's nest will bring a reaction which could have unforeseeable—and for the still-fragile stability of our state—unfavorable consequences. What is your stand on this ill-judged students' appeal which, unfortunately, also has inappropriate political consequences?

[Calfa] I do not take the students' appeal lightly. I want to emphasize, however, that I understand the formulation of their demands as a desperate outcry by those students who feel very strongly about the fact that the principal problems of the state still persist and that their solution is constantly being put off. I have in mind, above all, the survival of old structures, the constantly open and still unresolved constitutional arrangement of the state, and the surviving problems with the state apparatus, particularly as far as old habits and old ways of thinking of its bureaucrats are concerned. To put it briefly, concerns are the cause of nonconfidence. Differences in our perspectives also play a big role. We high-ranking officials see the problems differently from students, of course. It is quite logical that the purges demanded by the students represent a more complex and more serious problem for us than for the students. They see the problems in a simplified way and, above all, they are impatient. I do not want to simplify, however, and I am determined to speak with the students and to explain to them our, as well as my own, ideas about the solution to problems. I think that a dialogue would be beneficial.

[VEREJNOST] Your attitude is magnanimous. Despite this, do you not deem it possible that a real political force existed which intentionally banked on this "simplified students' perspective"—on their political naivete? Every simplification and naive perspective contains the seeds of an effective, and therefore explosive, emotional charge.

[Calfa] I see what are you getting at. There are certain circumstances, or indications of these circumstances in this whole "student case". You only have to carefully observe developments in the Federal Assembly—for example, the activity of the Christian Democratic Party deputies, explicitly, deputy Mr. Benda. I will return to the subject of the coalition talks about government formation after the June elections. In these talks, Mr. Benda expressed inordinate demands which did not correspond at all to the election results achieved by Christian Democrats. I, as a former Communist, am not to Mr. Benda's taste; this was shown during the coalition talks. Now, to the point: the students' appeal. Apart from others, Benda's two sons signed it. Under no circumstances do I want to cast doubt on the young Bendas' independence of mind. Yet I have no doubt that the family environment played its role. I admit, however, that this might be my speculation.

[VEREJNOST] The appeal was also signed by Dienstbier junior...?

[Calfa] I make no secret that this surprised me. All the more so, because I have very good relations with his father and hold him in great esteem. Moreover, Minister Dienstbier also has a communist past. I have heard,

however, that young Dienstbier has changed his attitude; I will speak with him. I am positive that we will make our standpoints clear.

[VEREJNOST] Let us return to the subject of purges which are called for. Not only students, but the majority of our citizens express their dissatisfaction with old structures persisting in the state administration and in the economic management. The question for the governments is how to proceed to prevent the democratic mechanisms which have replaced the totalitarian mechanisms from becoming paralyzed, and how to prevent the old structures from misusing the transitional post-totalitarian stage in which the CSFR finds itself for regrouping themselves and launching a counter-offensive.

[Calfa] During his visit here, Mr. Delors made it plain that the European Communities are characterized, above all, by a democratic environment and market economy. To make a long story short, he emphasized democracy everywhere and in everything. We have set our orientation, we want to be a part of Europe, and we want to become a member of the Council of Europe as soon as possible; these are our specific goals. The arrangement of our domestic affairs, its ways and norms must be in harmony with these goals. Purges are not a recognized method in democratic countries and they are not used to achieve political goals. We have no alternative but to proceed in a democratic spirit. I will put it this way: If we started the mechanism and "unfolded" purges, then I would not dare to predict the consequences. One thing is certain, however, we could "fold up" our plans for heading toward Europe. Democratic development has its logic. The parliamentary elections were the first important step to establish democracy. As yet, mankind has not invented a more democratic "institution" than elections. On the condition that they are really objective and free. Another serious step that will strengthen the democratic state will be the local elections in November. People will decide for themselves who will represent them in administrative bodies. No "gifts-from-above" will be made. The local elections will mean a natural extinction of the old structures and the establishment of administrative organs on the basis of democracy. Naturally, our people know that the old structures are interwoven within the administrative and economic spheres. The laws on large and small privatization are another means for eliminating old structures from the economic sphere; as soon as this process is completed, the old structures will be eliminated. We must realize that we do not need purges since we will destroy the old structures in an internationally recognized and acceptable manner. The people should look at the laws on privatization also from this viewpoint. They do not concern the economy alone. These laws are, above all, very efficient and natural levers which do not apply force, but achieve their objectives in an undramatic manner. If there is anything dramatic about this process, then it is the change in peoples' minds. Not everyone is able to accept the fact that we have to return to the proven values of mankind and that this return must be very, very humble.

People speak a lot about privatization. It seems, however, that unimportant details are being accentuated and emotions are unnecessarily stirred up, while its political aspect, as you have formulated it, is somehow neglected. Do you not think that the mass media are not using their influence efficiently in this case? The problem you have raised is really very serious and complex. It is unbelievable but we really cannot influence people effectively through the press. When we provide information, it is not unusual that this information is then distorted in the press, radio, and television. The problem of the political maturity of journalists, their overall knowledge of facts and their responsibility toward people, comes into play. As if they did not realize that distorted information is, in fact, misinformation. Take news conferences, for example, at these conferences competent politicians should provide as much information as possible about the substance and the value of individual political measures. Instead, however, journalists ask which minister was against what minister and with whom he had a dispute. In other words, they are not interested in a specific material, but in the circumstances under which this material came into being. For three generations we have been used to newspapers carrying only party and official viewpoints. Today the situation is different, yet the readers' habitual mechanism remains the same. So even half-information or misinformation is put on a par with information having an objective value. It is then easy to imagine what quality public opinion is. I would like to appeal to you, journalists, to become aware of the tremendous power that is available to you.

[VEREJNOST] Mr. Premier, do you think that only journalists have the Calfa-Meciar controversy on their conscience?

[Calfa] Do you doubt it? If you pay attention only to our different temperaments—that of Premier Meciar and myself—then you will miss the substance—a common political platform. Furthermore, when you miss it once, then it is not difficult—based on external manners and specific vocabularies—to construe two conflicting political concepts. Yes, Calfa and Meciar can issue denials. The question is, however, whether anyone will believe Calfa and Meciar, whether it will not be assessed as a political maneuver designed to calm public opinion. This is the problem.

[VEREJNOST] You are talking about different temperaments—yours and that of the [Slovak] premier. Sometimes, however, it seems that you approach the same problem more cautiously and Premier Meciar more uncompromisingly. This is not a question of temperament but of opinion, is it not...?

[Calfa] Above all, you must not forget that even questions on which we principally agree are regarded by us from different perspectives. It is logical. Premier Meciar

is the premier of the Slovak Republic and I am the federal premier. I did not expect the Slovak Government to proceed so fast as to anticipate the adoption of the constitution. I deem it correct and natural, however, that Slovakia is freeing itself and that it searches for its new face. Basically, elements others than economic, rational, and objective ones should not be allowed to prevail in this accelerated process. I am afraid that a national, too national, or even nationalistic element could prevail. Economics is a very rational matter and it does not go well together with national, that is, emotional elements. I want to stress that the economic area in the integrating Europe does not know any borders. This does not mean, however, that I am against Slovakia's defining itself with respect to Bohemia and its other neighbors. Yes, I am more cautious, I think about Slovakia, but also about the federation. I do not see any reason why the more dynamic Meciar and the more cautious Calfa should be attributed intentions that they do not have. If someone says that Calfa is of the opinion that raising the question of the republics' spheres of competence makes the economic reform more difficult, he is wrong. Both Calfa and Meciar are of the opinion that solving the competence question must be a part of the economic reform. Why look for conflicts where there are none?

Socialist Party Leaders Discuss Current Situation

AU1910132490 Prague CTK in English 1401 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 17 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Socialist Party Acting Deputy Chairman Milan Adam expressed dissatisfaction with the developments in Czechoslovakia after the fall of the communist regime in this country in November 1989.

He told a press conference here today that, in his opinion, prepared privatization and other measures were to be realized earlier. The present state leadership should pay greater attention to moral revival of citizens without which Czechoslovakia's economic growth is impossible.

According to Adam, Czechoslovak Socialist Party members who will be successful in the local elections (in the Czech Republic on November 24, in the Slovak Republic on November 23-24) will push through mainly the extension of a merchandising network, allocation of housing to young people and will strive for improvement of environmental protection.

Party Presidium member Jan Skoda stated that 3,000 party members will run for the local elections. They can form coalitions with anyone except the communists and the extreme right wing.

Party deputy chairman Jiri Drapal said that the socialists strive for restoration of a land arrangement in Czechoslovakia. Until 1 January 1949 Czechoslovakia was divided into Czech and Moravian- Silesian lands and Slovakia. Then, Czechoslovakia has been divided into regions with Czechoslovakia's capital of Prague and the Slovak capital of Bratislava having autonomous status at the level of regions.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Party is a traditional left center party which was founded in 1897 as the "Czech National Social Party". It is the second biggest political party in the country. In 1948-1989 the Czechoslovak Socialist Party was one of four non-communist political parties which were permitted to exist by the communist regime and whose activity was precisely defined. In November 1989 after the brutal action by police against a peaceful students' demonstration in central Prague, this party was the first to criticize the ruling communist regime and demand its share in power. In the 8-9 June parliamentary elections it suffered a big defeat and did not win any mandates. The election failure resulted in a split in the party into several competing streams.

At present the Czechoslovak Socialist Party has some 23,000 members.

Federal Cabinet Meets, Approves Bills

LD2010182690 Prague CTK in English 1259 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 20 (CTK)—The Federal cabinet met here today to approve several bills which must be presented to parliament by October 25 at the latest if they are to come into effect on January 1, 1991.

The cabinet approved a constitutional bill on nationalizing the property worth about 3,000 million crowns of the former Socialist Union of Youth.

It also approved a bill on refugees, respecting U.N. conventions on refugee status, rights and duties and procedures of state authorities in granting this status. This status can be granted to foreigners who are justified in fearing persecution in their homeland for racial, religious and nationality reasons or political convictions.

Another bill approved by the cabinet changes and completes the constitutional law on the Czechoslovak federation. It creates legislative prerequisites for new relations between the budgets of the federation and the republics. The federal budget will no longer be superior to the budgets of the republics and will cease to be an instrument of redistribution financial resources and interference in the financial affairs of the republics. The bill is of a temporary character, until a new constitution of Czechoslovakia is adopted.

Minister Klaus Denies Presidential Ambitions

AU1910115390 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 17 Oct 90 p 3

[Interview with Vaclav Klaus, Civic Forum chairman and federal minister of finance, by Viktoria Kmetova; place and date not given: "A Blitz Interview With V. Klaus"]

[Text] [Kmetova] Do you intend to run for the presidency in the next elections? Your chairmanship of the Civic Forum would give you a great chance, in the event the economic reform is successfully implemented....

[Klaus] No. On the contrary, I think that our country has found a president it will need for quite a long time in Vaclav Havel. The post of Civic Forum chairman is a great commitment for me, to which I will try to uphold the best I can. As for the economic reform, it is not I who will decide upon its success, but 16 million people of this country. That is, all of us.

Finance Minister Cited on 'Serious' Economic State

AU1910102390 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 17 Oct 90 pp 1, 3

["(FA)" and "(ZK)"-signed report: "V. Klaus Among the Deputies"]

[Text] Yesterday's meeting involving members of the Christian Democratic Union Deputies' Club included a seminar on topical issues associated with our economic reform. V. Klaus, CSFR finance minister, was welcomed to the seminar by J. Lux, Czechoslovak People's Party chairman.

In his opening statement Minister V. Klaus said, among other things, that the complete collapse of CEMA, the chaotic state of our relations with the USSR, and—in particular—the crisis in the Middle East combined with increased oil prices have placed us in a completely different situation from the one we were in a few months ago when we began our transition to a market economy.

The minister had previously been opposed to foreign assistance. However, today he is saying something else. We are in a serious and badly timed situation. What is happening in our economic reform, compounded by external influences, could become—because of differences in political opinion—a bone of contention. We cannot reckon with any acceleration in economic growth either in the short-range forecast or in the medium-range forecast. Our task is to keep it as close as possible to the current level.

V. Klaus also said that we are drifting between Scylla and Charybdis; that is, between inflation and unemployment. We have to decide which of these hazards we want to come closest to. It is necessary to regard both as an economic evil which has a different effect. Unemployment places pressure on the individual, while the impact of inflation is more diffused and affects the socially weaker sectors of society with fixed incomes. The issue involves deciding upon a greater degree of this or that evil. Therein lies the political aspect.

Later V. Klaus and his deputy, I. Kocarnik, answered questions from deputies. We select the following from their replies: In view of the expected economic difficulties, he would wish for civil calm both as a citizen of this country and as an economist and a minister. As a minister he would welcome a reduction in defense expenditure. However, canceling orders for our Army would also mean canceling orders for our industry. Enterprises should already be aware of the conditions for concluding foreign contracts with the exception of information about the exchange rates on 1 January 1991. It will either be 24 korunas to the dollar plus import surcharges or 28-30 korunas to the dollar. The CSFR's current difficulties and the extent of its economic imbalance do not bode well for currency reform. Investment vouchers making mass privatization possible are still envisaged. According to estimates, real wages should fall by six to 10 percent next year.

National Cost of Living Up 14.1 Percent

AU1910131890 Prague CTK in English 0921 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 18 (CTK)—In view of the recent rises in retail prices and transportation, the living costs in households of blue and white-collar workers went up in July-September this year by 14.1 percent compared with the same period last year, communist RUDE PRAVO quoted today the Federal Statistical Office.

Real incomes thus dropped by one percent. Prices of food went up by 20 percent, industrial goods by 11 percent, public catering by 15.9 percent, and services by 9.9 percent. The cost of living index hits hardest pensioners and families with large number of children and low income. The rate of savings was 2.8 percent, the lowest in the past 11 years.

Proof Obtained of Nov 1989 Army Activity

AU1910095390 Prague ZEMEDELSKO NOVINY in Czech 16 Oct 90 p 2

[Jan Bauer report: "Provocation Prepared in Advance"]

[Text] The presidential commission investigating the Army's activities in November 1989—which is composed of representatives from the Federal Assembly Defense and Security Committees, the Office of the President, the Ministry of Defense Inspectorate, and the Revival military association—should complete its work this week and submit its final report.

According to trustworthy reports, the documentary evidence has proliferated considerably. Apparently, the commission also has at its disposal the written testimony of participants who were deployed in the units earmarked for intervention. It has even been proven that one of these units was stationed directly in Prague—in the area around Zahradni Mesto—during the critical days between 20 and 24 November and should have been deployed in collaboration with the National Security Corps and the People's Militia. Specifically, this unit was the Ninth Tank Battalion of the Third Mechanized Division based in Kromeriz. In the written order, which the commission has at its disposal and which was signed

by Lieutenant General Zacharias (according to unconfirmed reports, this man was summoned before the commission from Moscow where he works in the Warsaw Pact allied command), it was unequivocally emphasized that politically unreliable people were not to be included in these units. In particular, no graduates from university military faculties were to be included. This was probably connected with the fact that former students would, obviously, refuse to intervene against striking students.

The documentation also includes other orders such as the order for the Seventh Army Air Defense Unit and for the 10th Airborne Division. This order was signed by Lt. Gen. Ladislav Sochor, the division's commander. All these orders confirm that they were written by the General Staff. We can see the original instructions in the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee Presidium resolution of 7 November. This date suggests that originally the instantaneous strike action organized by students, theater workers, and dissident groups was not the main issue involved. The main issue was a deliberate provocation prepared in advance against opposition forces in which the Army was supposed to participate alongside the National Security Corps and the People's Militia.

As far as the material which the Free Legion submitted to the investigating commission is concerned, it involves three orders whose contents only confirm what the commission already knew from other sources. However, the existence of an order from Lt. Gen. Slimak, chief of the General Staff, is undoubtedly interesting. This order, which the commission also has at its disposal, commanded the destruction of all documents pertaining to November 1989. In this connection, it is remarkable that at the end of August Gen. Slimak denied through CTK that any orders existed for the misuse of the Army in November 1989. At that time ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY was the first to inform readers of this when it published an interview with Colonel Cerovsky.

Barta Denies Accusations of Being StB Agent

AU1910163990

[Editorial Report] Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech on 18 October, page 3, under the headline "Code Name 'Schoolmaster'," publishes a 900-word statement by Boleslav Barta, deputy of the Federal Assembly, denying all allegations of his collaboration with the State Security [StB].

According to Barta, Devaty's accusation is a case of gross libel and he will demand satisfaction in a court of law. He swears, "I have never signed a collaboration agreement with the State Security and I have never discredited other people under interrogation. The opposite is true; as a result of my adverse attitude, I was continually discriminated against and persecuted." Barta continues by describing the persecution to which he was subjected, beginning in 1971 with an interrogation during which he refused to name his contacts in connection with passing some anti-government documents, until 1989. Rather than being a security agent, he says he was "involved in dissident activities."

Barta explains the accusation saying: "In connection with the discussions on screening taking place during the past months, an opinion was published that State Security members themselves produced 'agents' by their reports to enhance their effectiveness. If there really is a file on me at the State Security, it must be one of this type." He concludes the statement with an itemized list of examples of discrimination and persecution arguing that this would not have taken place had he been a State Security agent.

Spokesman on Pithart's Attitude Toward Klaus

AU1910155590 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 17 Oct 90 p 2

[Interview with Petr Prihoda, Czech Republic Government press spokesman, by Katerina Sladkova; place and date not given: "Why Petr Pithart Was Absent from the Civic Forum Assembly: It Was Not an Italian Holiday"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sladkova] The Czech premier paid his visit to Italy at a time which seems to have been ill-chosen, from the domestic political point of view. For example, he was absent from the Civic Forum Assembly, the conclusions of which are very significant for this movement and for our society at large.

[Prihoda] The Civic Forum Assembly and, in particular, its results did not deviate in any substantial way from Petr Pithart's ideas about its present and future orientation. On the contrary, I believe that he welcomes in the person of Minister Vaclav Klaus, the new Civic Forum chairman, a straightforward right-oriented politician whose radical economic intentions can go very well with the implementation of a regional policy with stress on self-administration, of which Premier Pithart is an advocate, as well as with his endeavor to renew the Czechness of Czech policy.

Civic Forum's Klaus Holds First News Conference

LD1910185890 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1430 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Civic Forum Chairman Vaclav Klaus says that the core of the movement's policy lies in the implementation of economic reform. At today's regular news conference, which he attended for the first time in his new post, he stressed that the Civic Forum must express itself more clearly and in a distinctive way, so that it can revive and strengthen its positions. By placing emphasis on economic reform, it wishes to create conditions of economic freedom, because this is the basic prerequisite for all other freedoms.

Talking about the fall in confidence of the Civic Forum, Vaclav Klaus said that the forum will have to part from the group of the so-called permanently dissatisfied people, whom he described as a destabilizing component

of every society. When asked about his current relationship with Federal President Vaclav Havel, Mr. Klaus noted that his relationship with the president is very good and constructive.

Press Views Impact of Changes in Civic Forum

AU1910100990

[Editorial Report] Czech newspapers of 16 and 17 October continue to comment on the outcome of the Civic Forum Assembly held in Prague on 13 October and the significance of the election of Vaclav Klaus as Civic Forum chairman.

Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 16 October, page 2, carries a 600-word Jiri Leschtina commentary entitled "Politician of an Explosive Mixture." Leschtina says that when President Havel called for a "firmer political leadership" of the Civic Forum at the movement's assembly in September, "he certainly did not have Vaclav Klaus in mind." Nonetheless, Leschtina does not think that the election of Vaclav Klaus was a surprise because it was only a reflection of the growing influence of advocates of a radical economic reform in Czechoslovak politics (Leschtina cites "the fiasco" of left-wing critics of the government's economic program in parliament, the recent drastic devaluation of the koruna, and the defeat of President Havel's concept of "small privatization"—which foresaw the preemptive right of current employees of businesses—as other "signals" of the growing strength of advocates of a "pure market economy" in Czechoslovakia). Leschtina also points out that, unlike the previous Civic Forum leaders, Klaus "never had anything in common with reform communism" and does not have a dissident past. He, therefore, believes that Klaus is "more understandable to the silent majority of the nation who were neither communists nor dissidents" than the previous leaders of the movement. Summing up, Leschtina says that the election of Klaus "testifies to the growing conviction within the Civic Forum that, apart from ethical principles, a realistic way towards prosperity must be outlined" to the public.

On the same day, on page 2, Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES carries a 500-word Tomas Marek commentary entitled "Giant Slalom." Marek says that "by the election of Vaclav Klaus as chairman, the Civic Forum has landed in a state of 'cold' war. The most natural development now would be its quick division into two independent political formations, which have, in fact, already assumed a clear shape—a democratic right and centrists with leftist leanings." Although the aforementioned scenario would be "natural," Marek believes that, despite all their differences, the two groups will be "forced to cooperate." The most important reason for this, in his opinion, is that "after a consistent split and the [expected] departure of some followers of the movement into opposition, the two groups would emerge so weakened from the process of differentiation that they would lose the possibility of actually controlling the parliament." Marek also believes that in the present tense situation caused by the dramatically deteriorating economy and "problems with the federation," Czechoslovakia cannot afford another "brutal shock." In his opinion, "the disintegration of the Civic Forum would set off a domestic political crisis of unprecedented dimensions, from which only extremists would profit—Sladek's ultra-right-wing, Mohorita's ultra-left-wing, and Moric's nationalists." He believes, therefore, that the Civic Forum will be forced to settle for a policy of compromises between its two factions (a "giant slalom," as he calls it).

Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech on 17 October, page 1, carries a 650-word Jan Kastanek commentary entitled "Politics Today and Tomorrow." Evaluating the outcome of the Civic Forum Assembly, Kastanek says that the movement's pre-election slogan—Parties Are for Party Members, the Civic Forum Is For All—"has become an anachronism." In his opinion, "the Civic Forum is now much closer to being a political party than to being a movement."

Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 17 October, page 3, carries an 800-word Vladimir Divis commentary entitled "After the Civic Forum Assembly." Divis interprets the outcome of the Assembly, particularly the victory of Vaclav Klaus over Martin Palous as Civic Forum chairman, as "confirmation of a certain retreat of many prominent dissidents and Charter 77 representatives, most of whom are exponents of the centrist and partially even leftist wing, from the Civic Forum limelight." The movement is now dominated by "economic pragmatists" who cannot claim any credit for their behavior prior to November 1989 but who have "a coherent program for the future and, above all, a clear right-of-center political orientation." Divis includes Vladimir Dlouhy and Pavel Rychetsky among those who have "gained the upper hand" in the Civic Forum next to Vaclav Klaus.

Divis wonders how exponents of left-wing views within the Civic Forum will react to the new situation. As he notes, "I cannot see deputies for the Left Alternative or the Revival club, organizations which continue to operate under the Civic Forum's umbrella, giving their support to every proposal submitted to parliament by Minister Klaus."

Press Views Outcome of Czech Communists' Congress

AU1810120190

[Editorial Report] Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech on 15 October and Prague LIDOVE NOVINY and Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech on 16 October comment on the outcome of the First Congress of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia [CPBM], held in Olomouc on 13 and 14 October. Several newspapers also devote attention to the personality of film director Jiri Svoboda, the newly elected CPBM chairman.

Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech on 15 October, page 2, carries a 600-word Jiri Tvrznik commentary, which deals with both the CPBM Congress and the Civic Forum Assembly, held the same weekend.

Commenting on the outcome of the CPBM Congress, Tvrznik says that "although it beat the retreat from Mohorita's ruinous statement [about the end of the period of national consensus in Czechoslovakia], apart from platitudes about 'cooperation with all people of good will' it did not bring anything that would make the discredited communist organization more sympathetic to our public."

Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech on 16 October, page 1, carries a 300-word E. Martinkova commentary entitled "Political Scene Reinvigorated." The author believes that a "new stream" took over in the CPBM, replacing the "unacceptable Mr. [Jiri] Machalik." She continues: "This development indicates that the party's intellectual elite has come to power. Messrs. Svoboda and Ransdorf [an economic forecaster who was one of the candidates for the post of party chairman] will hardly be caught chewing gum or exposed as collaborators of the State Security Corps [reference to Vasil Mohorita, first secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, who has been criticized for his rude manners during Margaret Thatcher's televised address to the Federal Parliament and who collaborated with the secret police in the detainment of Vaclav Havel in 1978]. It will not be possible to belittle their statements because these will evidently be clever remarks. In short, they will be partners, or adversaries, of high caliber." Martinkova deplores that, unlike the CPBM, the Social Democracy has not realized the importance of having "personalities" in the party leadership. If it did, she says, "it would not have expelled the only strong personality [reference to Rudolf Battek] from its midst."

Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech on 16 October, page 1, carries a 700-word Jiri Franek commentary entitled "The New Left and Old Structures." Franek acknowledges that the new CPBM Chairman Jiri Svoboda's apology for all the wrongs committed in the name of the Communist Party was a "noble gesture" because Svoboda himself did not commit any wrongs and had himself protested against them prior to 17 November 1989. Franek believes, however, that "this apology will not do." In his opinion, the only way for the Communist Party to gain credibility would be to play an active role in the "removal of the old structures."

Several newspapers pay attention to the personality of Jiri Svoboda, the newly elected party chairman. A Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech report on the CPBM Congress, published on 15 October on pages 1 and 2, describes Svoboda as a "representative of the liberal current" in the Communist Party. According to the report, his election "indicates that the party's intellectual elite is gaining ground in the CPBM—i.e., those who embrace the old traditions of the European socialist movement and who would like the party to resemble Western European social democratic parties." A Marta Csontosova report on the CPBM Congress, published by Bratislava SMENA in Slovak on 15 October on page 2, says that Svoboda has the backing of those Communist Party members who want the party to merge with the "Czechoslovak left-wing movement." Several newspapers (Prague RUDE PRAVO and Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech on 15 October, for example) draw attention to Svoboda's maverick status in the party prior to November 1989. They emphasize that between 1971 and 1981 he was banned from work in Czechoslovak Television because of his political views; that he was among the signatories of the "A Few Sentences" opposition manifesto of June 1989 and of a petition protesting against the persecution of dissidents; and that he attended the constituent meeting of Civic Forum on 19 November 1989. The Marta Csontosova report on the CPBM Congress in Bratislava SMENA in Slovak also mentions that Svoboda's latest film, which has not yet been released, deals with "communist purges in Czechoslovakia in the 1950's."

Meciar Calls For Interior Minister's Resignation

LD2110220190

[Editorial Report] Prague Television Service in Slovak at 1900 GMT on 21 October broadcasts a 10-minute speech by Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar.

Meciar devotes a great part of his speech to the talks that are in progress on the division of powers between the federal and republican organs, which he believes should be decided by 1 January 1991.

Changing the subject near the end of his address, Meciar says: "I am aware of the fact that there are still many problems that we have to solve. We have to solve many things in the government in the interest of improving its work and services. I have discussed these issues with political parties and with coalition parties. I have asked for solutions in personnel matters, but I have received no support. I have decided to inform the public about these matters gradually. Furthermore, in this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that on Saturday [20 October] I called upon the minister of the interior [not further identified] to leave his post immediately due to incompetence. There have been many mistakes and enough is enough, and the level of tolerance and my patience has reached its limit. Thus, esteemed fellow citizens, we have much to do everywhere. There is a lot which unites us, there are many risks facing us. The burden that you have put on government's shoulders, on me personally, is very heavy. We can deal with it only together with you, with your support, with your unity. I ask you: Let us not spoil things! Thank you."

KDH Opposes Meciar's Call

LD2201075880 Prague CTK in English 2023 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Bratislava Oct 21 (CTK)—The Slovak Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) sees no reason why Slovak Interior Minister Anton Andras should resign his post, as suggested by Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar in his TV address earlier, member of the KDH Council Ivan Carnoghursky told CTK today.

Meciar called for Andras' resignation on grounds of incompetence.

Carnogursky said that minister Andras recently started a radical exchange of the senior staff at the Interior Ministry, of communists who have been maintaining their leading posts and preventing the ministry from being democratized. The minister's procedure is competent and in Harmony with agreements of coalition parties, Carnogursky said.

Slovak Government Approves Draft Language Law

AU1910122390 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 17 Oct 90 p 2

["(NO)"-signed report: "Proposal for an Official Language; From a Session of the Slovak Republic Government"]

[Excerpt] Bratislava— At its session yesterday, the Slovak Republic Government approved, after the incorporation of certain modifications, the latest proposal for the issuance of a Slovak National Council law on the enactment of an official language in the Slovak Republic. This proposal, draft No. 50, was submitted by a group of Slovak National Council deputies and is the result of talks between the coalition parties and movements.

It addresses all substantial issues which may arise in the process of the enactment of Slovak as an official language, especially in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities. It consistently observes the priority of the official language. At the same time, however, it does not deny the possibility to use, under certain conditions, the language of ethnic minorities in dealings with the authorities. By a majority of votes, members of the government endorsed the view that the names of towns, villages, their parts, streets, squares, public areas, and other territorial entities should be denoted in the official language. At the same time, the government did not recommend the adoption of other submitted proposals—draft No. 45, submitted by the Slovak National Heritage Foundation, and draft No. 48, submitted by the Egyutteles [Hungarian for "Coexistence"] movement. [passage omitted]

[Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 17 October, page 11, carries the 600-word "Draft Law of the Slovak National Council on the Official Language," which appears to be the version approved at the 16 October Slovak Government session. Article 5 of the draft law, which contains stipulations on the use of "other languages," states that the Czech language has an equal status with the official language and that members of ethnic minorities may use their own language in dealings with the authorities, provided that they make up "at least 20 percent" of the population in the community concerned. Another clause of the law stipulates that civil servants must be able to use the official language "in the verbal, written, or another form recognized by the state."]

Premier Meciar Criticizes Federal Practices

AU1910122990 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 17 Oct 90 pp 1, 2

[Alena Melicharkova report: "I, Too, Am a Citizen; Premier Meciar Under the Fire of Questions"]

[Excerpts] Bratislava—After yesterday's session of the Slovak Republic Government, Premier Vladimir Meciar replied to a number of questions from journalists.

As we informed readers yesterday, aluminum manufacturers in Ziar nad Hronom have gone on strike because they did not receive from the Federal Government the guarantee for a 500 million korunas credit which they need to modernize the factory. Commenting on this strike, the Slovak premier said that last week he had already appealed to Premier Calfa either to send Minister Dlouhy to Ziar nad Hronom or to deal with the problem himself. I have been informed that talks were held but that they did not result in any agreement. This entire problem concerns the federal bodies. In spite of this, the premier promised his help in solving it.

Yesterday the Slovak Government considered a new draft law of the Slovak National Council, drafted by the coalition, on the enactment of Slovak as the official language in Slovakia. The premier stressed that it anticipates even those international human rights conventions which are only being prepared. He said that the bill guarantees the use of the Slovak language in dealings with the authorities even in areas where the Slovaks are in minority. On the other hand, the bill makes it possible in certain cases for ethnic minorities to use their own language in contact with the authorities. [passage omitted]

Asked to comment on the change in the koruna's exchange rate against the dollar in commercial and noncommercial payments approved by the Federal Government, the premier underlined that such weighty decisions require serious preparation. He said that the Slovak deputy premier only had the chance to deliver his opinion on this step by telephone and was not able to discuss it substantively. "I believe that one proceeds very incorrectly in this area. Measures in the area of prices are being prepared, about which we know that they will be introduced at a certain time. Why are they not published well in advance? Why are people not told so that they can prepare themselves? It is necessary to come up with arguments. These questions [the devaluation], too, could have been publicly discussed with enterprises. I resent

such practices not only because the Slovak Republic Government has not been informed in time but also because I am myself a citizen," Premier Meciar stressed.

Slovak Communist Party Congress Begins

LD2010143190 Prague CTK in English 1203 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Bratislava Oct 20 (CTK)—The Slovak Communist Party opened its two-day congress in the East Slovak town of Presov today, which is expected to result in the victory of the reform stream fighting for radical changes in the party.

About 600 delegates representing roughly 200,000 Slovak Communists will decide the party's future and elect a new Central Committee. Peter Weiss, the party Executive Committee chairman, told the press recently that the congress is expected to be extremely stormy and have a significant historical impact. There are currently two clear-cut streams within the party: one striving to restore the party with Stalinist elements, the other seeking to form a completely new party taking account of experiences of the communist movement, as well as socialist and social democratic groupings.

The platform of communist reconstruction favours Marxist-Leninist ideology, believes that communism can be achieved by applying its positive principles, and considers some principles, such as dictatorship of the proletartiat, rigid democratic centralism and leading role of the party in society outdated.

The platform of socialist orientation rejects the forcible suppression of the reform process in 1968, regarding the past 20 years as the last and wasted chance. It supports Marx's humanistic ideas and sees its main role in working out methods of social market economy and cooperating with other left forces and trade unions.

Slovak Council Rejects Privatization Law

AU1910170490 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 18 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Bratislava—At its session yesterday the Slovak Government Economic Council discussed the draft law on the so-called large-scale privatization which is ready to be submitted to the Federal Government.

The council stated that many of the Slovak side's suggestions were not projected into the full version of the law and it was rejected. It was stated in the council's report and discussions that the results of the work of the expert commissions do not reflect, so far, the full extent of the conclusions reached in the negotiations at Trencianske Teplice. The centralist tendencies which condemn the republics to the role of its economy's operative administrators still prevail. The members of the council also rejected the objectives contained in the state structural policy drafted by the CSFR Ministry of the Economy. Although its authors refer in their material to the discussions with Slovak representatives, this statement is at variance with the contents of the material. If we discount the fact that financial resources which still do not exist are being distributed, the allocation of foreign investments for Slovakia's structural transformation is inadequate.

CPSL Made Illegal 149 Million-Koruna Transfer

AU1910132690 Prague CTK in English 2130 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Bratislva Oct 17 (CTK)—A check of immovable, movable, and financial assets of the Communist Party of Slovakia [CPSL] has revealed the party transferred property worth 149 million korunas between December 1989 and May 1990, i.e., in a period in which a government-imposed moratorium on transfers of political parties' property was in force.

This was told journalists here today by workers of the Slovak Ministry of Control. Checks in other parties exposed no serious shortcomings, with the exception of embezzlement in the National Liberal Party which has already been dealt with by relevant bodies.

The check in the communist party also revealed neglect of fundamental rules for book keeping.

On 1 June 1990, the Slovak Communist Party owned property worth 1,555 million korunas. Under a draft law, to be passed by the Federal Assembly (parliament), the property which the party gained unjustly before 17 November 1989, when its rule in Czechoslovakia was terminated, is to be expropriated and returned to the people.

The property of the leading movement in Slovakia, the Public Against Violence (VPN), is worth 17 million korunas.

Poll Shows Better Relations With Hungarians

AU1910190090 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 18 Oct 90 p 3

["(DS)"-signed report: "Slovak and Hungarian Relations"]

[Text] One of the problematic issues affecting current political and social development in Slovakia on various levels and in many forms is—indisputably—the nationality issue, whether from the point of view of the rights, needs, and interests of one nation or nationality, or from the point of view of mutual relations between both state-forming nations in our country and the attitudes of one state-forming nation toward the ethnic minorities living among us. The Institute for Public Opinion Research at the Slovak Statistical Office in Bratislava conducted a poll on 26 September among citizens in 11 districts in southern Slovakia to find out more about the development of relations between Slovaks and Hungarians in Slovakia.

The selective sample was composed of 751 respondents of both nationalities between the ages of 18 and 69. Both nationalities are represented almost equally. Of the questions asked in the survey, we have selected those which concern opinions about the activity of individual parties and movements to ensure a good level of coexistence between Slovaks and Hungarians in our country.

According to the results of the poll, the following parties and movements contribute most toward a good level of coexistence between both nationalities (respondents were given the possibility of naming two political entities):

Answer	Slovaks (%)	Hungarians (%)
1. Public Against Violence	33.2	27.9
2. Christian Democratic Movement	24.8	16.1
3. Coexistence-Egyutteles	16.9	43.5
4. Communist Party of Slovakia	12.3	5.5
5. Democratic Party	7.4	7.0
6. Hungarian Independent Initiative	6.3	13.5
7. Slovak National Party	5.7	1.1
8. Hungarian Christian Democrats	3.3	19.0
9. None of the above	14.4	10.2

Other political parties and movements were listed which did not gain more than five percent from either nationality.

In response to a question about which political parties at the moment are most harmful to coexistence between Slovaks and Hungarians, the following parties were listed (again respondents had the possibility of giving two answers):

Answer	Slovaks (%)	Hungarians (%)
1. Slovak National Party	31.6	57.4
2. Coexistence-Egyutelles	31.1	7.6
3. Hungarian Independent Initiative	20.4	3.9
4. Hungarian Christian Democrats	8.2	1.6
5. Communist Party of Slovakia	6.8	10.7
6. Independent Party of Slovaks	6.5	9.7
7. Public Against Violence	3.5	6.3

Other political parties and movements were listed which did not gain more than five percent from either nationality.

In this connection, the opinion of Slovaks and Hungarians on the activity of the social and cultural institutions Matica Slovenska [Slovak Heritage Foundation] and CSEMADOK [Hungarian People in Czechoslovakia Cultural Union] is certainly very interesting.

Matica Slovenska's affect on mutual relations between Slovaks and Hungarians:

Answer	Slovaks (%)	Hungarians (%)
favorable	45	20
unfavorable	16	38
no influence	12	5
unable to say	27	37

CSEMADOK's affect on mutual relations between Slovaks and Hungarians:

Answer	Slovaks (%)	Hungarians (%)
favorable	23	49
unfavorable	36	13
no influence	10	10
unable to say	31	28

At the same time, the poll indicated that 44 percent of Slovaks and 63 percent of Hungarians (or rather, one of their immediate family) have an ethnically mixed marriage and only three to four percent of those polled condemned such marriages. A total of 85 percent of the Slovaks polled count both Slovaks and Hungarians among their friends. Approximately 89 percent of Hungarians polled have both Slovak and Hungarian friends.

The information gained from the opinion poll conducted among citizens in the ethnically mixed districts of southern Slovakia has significantly confirmed that the majority of Slovaks and Hungarians living next to each other for a long time in neighborly, friendly, and even family relationships do not have, and cannot have, any interest in whipping up nationalist passions which complicate mutual relations.

Participants' Views Unchanged on Danube Project

AU2210144390 Prague CTK in English 1915 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest Oct 18 (CTK)—Czechoslovak-Hungarian talks on the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros water project on the Danube ended here today but both sides clung to their earlier positions.

According to Hungarian Government representative Gyorgy Samsondi, his country wants to achieve a revision of the contract on the project because it believes that it is the result of an incorrect decision on both sides.

Dominik Kocinger, representing Czechoslovakia, said that his country does not consider the construction as incorrect. In any case, it is prepared to discuss any issues to find a way out of the situation.

If no agreement is reached within a month, contentious points will be submitted to an international group of

specialists. According to a Hungarian proposal, the group should include experts of the European Community.

Hungary unilaterally suspended work on the Nagymaros part of the water system in 1988. The project has drawn strong protests from environmentalists who fear pollution to drinking water and complete change of the environment which would destroy the fauna and flora in the area. Czechoslovakia has argued that the present state in which the building site finds itself may be dangerous.

Kocinger also mentioned the growing international pressure for an early decision because from 1992 the route from the Danube estuary in the Black sea to the estuary of the Rhine in the North sea is to be fully navigable.

The two government commissioners agreed to restart the work of a specialized group and Samsondi is to submit by 15 November groundwork for the Hungarian decision to suspend all work.

Commission on Troop Withdrawal To Claim Damages

LD1910202490 Prague CTK in English 1436 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 19 (CTK)—Michael Kocab, the chairman of the parliamentary commission supervising Soviet troops' withdrawal from Czechoslovakia, told journalists here today that a group of deputies was set up within the commission at its first session on Thursday to monitor the fate of Soviet deserters in Czechoslovakia.

The deputies turned to the commander of the central group of Soviet troops and first contacts are to be made in the nearest future. Soviet Soldier Naumov who withdrew his application for political asylum in Czechoslovakia after being visited by his mother on Wednesday, is to be taken to Sliac, Central Slovakia, on October 22 where the commission's deputies will supervise the departure of the last group of Soviet helicopters from Czechoslovak territory.

Mr Kocab stressed that the commission's main goal is to claim damages from the Soviet side. An accord, on the basis of which the damages will be claimed, is being prepared. The Soviet troops' withdrawal is carried out precisely according to the timetable and there are justified reasons to believe that it will be completed before the deadline set by the timetable, i.e. June 30, 1991, Mr Kocab said.

Training Center Established for UN Troops

AU1910160290 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 18 Oct 90 pp 1, 5

[Report on interview with Major General Cestmir Hrbek, deputy chief of staff of the Western Military District, by Vladimir Vacha; place and date not given: "UN Soldiers in Cesky Krumlov"; first two paragraphs are RUDE PRAVO introduction]

[Excerpt] Under a decision of the State Defense Council, a training center for UN peacekeeping forces with a "rapid deployment battalion" composed of Czechoslovak volunteers will go into operation on 1 November in Cesky Krumlov, at the Vysecke Barracks.

On Wednesday [17 October] representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the city discussed the details of this center's final location. I took this opportunity to ask Major General Cestmir Hrbek, deputy chief of staff of the Western Military District, for an interview.

[Vacha] Could you briefly characterize the composition and purpose of this unit?

[Hrbek] The training center for UN peacekeeping forces will be training a rapid deployment battalion of about 470 men. Training will start on 1 November. The mission of the training center is to create a base for this training and to provide comprehensive support for it in both material and personnel terms. The battalion's assignment is to train and harmonize the units and prepare them for deployment in UN peacekeeping operations. [passage omitted]

Government May Join Council of Europe in 1991

AU1910132290 Prague CTK in English 1531 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 17 (CTK)—Czechoslovakia may join the Council of Europe in the middle of next year, Peter Sager, chairman of a Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe told journalists today.

Sager is chairman of the Commission for European Nonmember States of the Assembly. He said he was optimistic about Czechoslovakia's membership and representatives of the Commission said that quick changes in Czechoslovak political life in the last year speak for the country's admission to the CE. Sager called it encouraging that a Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms is to be approved in Czechoslovakia in a short time and is to become part of its Constitution.

Sager said that the Commission's report on the situation in Czechoslovakia will be of great importance for its admission to the Council of Europe. For the time being it is not yet complete and is confidential. Members of the Commission are meeting in Prague and Bratislava from today till Friday to deal with the latest developments in the CE Nonmembers.

CTK has learned from well-informed sources that members of the Commission were particularly interested in the status of the communist party, in the work of the parliament, women's and children's rights and the status of ethnic minorities. They were surprised at the low number of women in the parliament.

Czechoslovakia has a special guest status at the Council of Europe at present.

Agreement Signed With U.S. Investment Firm

AU2210163090 Prague CTK in English 2212 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 18 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus and President of the U.S. Government OPIC [Overseas Private Investment Corporation] Fred M. Zeder signed here today an agreement on investments promotion.

Similar agreements have been signed by the U.S. Government with almost 120 states, including Hungary and Poland recently.

In connection with changes in Eastern Europe, OPIC is starting a regional development fund worth 200 million dollars for the needs of Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and the five lands of the former GDR, and an ecological fund worth 150-200 million dollars.

According to Fred M. Zeder, the U.S. side is interested in Czechoslovakia especially in tourist and ecological projects.

Dienstbier Departs for Visits to Japan, Asia

LD1910124790 Prague CTK in English 1201 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Prague Oct 19 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier left here today for Japan, the first of four Asian countries—Republic of Korea, Thailand and India—he is going to visit during his Asian tour which will last until November 2.

The visit to Japan is taking place at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama who visited Czechoslovakia last March. The visit was a new impulse for the development of mutual relations at all levels in the spirit of democratic changes, new orientation of the Czechoslovak foreign policy and transition of the country's economy to a market economy. Although diplomatic ties between these two countries were established in 1918, the year of the foundation of the Czechoslovak independent state, and interrupted in the period of the Second World War 1939-1945, only at present great possibilities of all-round cooperation are emerging. Japan with its strong economic and scientific-technological potential might be one of partners to help apply economic reforms in Czechoslovakia which must overcome stagnation and backwardness in most economic branches. [passage omitted]

Joint Flemish Radio, Television Cooperation Pact

LD1710222190 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2105 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Jiri Kanturek, director general of the Czechoslovak Television, and Jan Ceuleers, director general of Flemish-Belgian Television and Radio, signed in Prague today an agreement on cooperation and co-production. The agreement is about a number of joint or exchange activities and applies to federal broadcasting F1 and both national television channels.

Cabinet Authorizes BBC, Radio France Broadcasts

LD1910044990 Prague CTK in English 2202 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Prague Oct 18 (CTK)—A draft law providing for control of the use of goods and technologies in line with the regulations of the Coordinating Committee for Multinational Export Controls (COCOM) was one point on the agenda of a regular cabinet meeting today.

Adoption of the law is to ensure a survey whether the goods concerned are available only to authorized users. Failure to observe the licence will be punished with fines going into seven digit figures and confiscation of the goods.

Last June COCOM reduced the number of items on its lists of goods embargoes for exports to the Soviet Union and former socialist countries, mostly sophisticated technology which could also be used for military purposes, from 120 to 90.

The government has given temporary authorization to the British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio France International to use Czechoslovak communications to broadcast their programs. Premier Marian Calfa described it as a typically anti-monopoly measure at the cabinet session today.

The BBC intends to receive via satellite and broadcast via ground transmitters its Czech and Slovak programs, the BBC World Service and courses of English. RFI wants to broadcast its news service and other programs together with news of the Czechoslovak News Agency.

The cabinet approved a draft protocol amending a Czechoslovak-Netherlands agreement on the prevention of dual taxation.

It voiced consent with the conclusion of a trade agreement with Chile in an effort to extend trade contacts with this Latin American country which had held an important place in Czechoslovak trade till 1973.

Further Reportage on Antall's U.S. Visit

Holds Talks With Bush in Washington

LD1910121790 Budapest MTI in English 1018 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Washington, October 18 (MTI)—U.S. President George Bush gave a warm reception to Prime Minister Jozsef Antall in the White House on Thursday, and announced measures to assist the Hungarian economy.

Following the reception, the two politicians first met in private and were later joined by the negotiating groups.

Afterwards, Jozsef Antall and State Secretary James Baker continued the talks on bialteral co-operation.

Those present at the reception ceremony in the White House garden included State Secretary James Baker, National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, and Chairman of the United Committee of Chiefs of Staff [as received] Colin Powell.

Bush reminded his audience of the fact that seven years ago he was the highest-ranking member (vice-president) of the U.S. Administration to visit Budapest, and last year became the first U.S. president to travel to Hungary. Bush termed the visit by Hungary's first democratically elected prime minister as a historic event, and went on to recall the other Hungarian patriot, Lajos Kossuth, prime minister and leader of the 1848-49 Hungarian war of independence, who was welcomed in Congress, the other U.S. symbol of freedom, 138 years ago.

"Hungary has now become a genuine democracy," George Bush stressed.

He spoke about the vigorous economic life he had witnessed in Budapest. He mentioned the General Electric and General Motors investments, and pointed out that the current value of U.S. investments in Hungary was more than 500,000 dollars.

The U.S. President said he would encourage us firms to look into investment opportunities in Hungary, and added that the government proposed supporting the Central-East European countries with 300 million dollars in the new financial year. He also spoke about the operation of the U.S. investment fund in Hungary, and revealed a plan to grant a fodder grain purchase loan worth 47.5 million dollars to drought-stricken Hungary.

Hungary and the other new democracies are paying dearly for being a party to the UN sanctions against Iraq, Bush said. For this reason, the United States calls on the International Monetary Fund to increase loans for the region by 5,000 million dollars, and requests the World Bank to speed up the 9,000-million-dollar package aimed at easing the energy problems.

President Bush announced the relaxation of travel restrictions for Hungarian diplomats in the United States, adding that the Hungarian request for a consulate general to be set up in Los Angeles would be met.

The United States has been a partner to Europe for most of the century, and is to remain so in future. Hungary and all the new democracies have now become part of the new, single and free Europe, and the United States commits itself to helping them find a secure footing in it. "Together, we are opening up a new chapter in U.S.-Hungarian relations with you," Bush said.

In his reply, Jozsef Antall pointed out that Hungary had overhauled its system of political institutions along the lines of a parliamentary democracy, and laid the foundations of a free-market economy.

"However, we make no bones of the fact that it is far more difficult to carry out the economic changes than the political ones. We have now come to [word indistinct] and President Bush's promises make us more hopeful about overcoming the acute crisis. Without you, the system of dictatorial regimes would not have collapsed in Central-East Europe. People have come to realize that the teachings of Marxism-Leninism were nothing but a string of lies," Antall stated.

The private talks between George Bush and Jozsef Antall were solely attended by Brent Scowcroft, national security advisor, and Gyula Kodolanyi, foreign policy advisor to the prime minister.

The subsequent talks between the two government delegations continued in the State Department.

Meets Baker, Attends Working Lunch

LD1910122690 Budapest MTI in English 1047 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Washington, October 18 (MTI)—After his talks with President George Bush, Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall attended a working lunch at the State Department.

State Secretary James Baker said the talks had covered the new system of European security, the Paris CSCE summit due in November, and economic issues.

Speaking to journalists, Antall said that the United States understood the severe problems facing Hungary, and held it highly important for the country to successfully carry out the economic changes after the political turn.

The Hungarian side indicated that the government would propose parliament send a group of military surgeons to the Gulf.

During the day, the prime minister is scheduled to confer with Nicholas Brady, secretary of the treasury, and Robert Mosbacher, secretary of commerce. He will also meet William Sessions, director of the Federal Bureau of Intelligence [as received] (FBI), who will then have a discussion with Secretary of State Peter Boross too.

The talks with the U.S. ministers will probably touch on how the U.S. Administration could help the Hungarian economy by long-term loans and aids. President Bush assured Jozsef Antall that they would not permit democracy to fail for economic reasons.

The Americans are proposing granting Hungary a special associated status in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which is all the more important as certain members of the organization stand opposed to Hungary's admission.

At the foreign ministerial talks it was stated: Much depends on the outcome of the Budapest Warsaw Treaty conference in November from the point of view of European security. Washington highly appreciates the Hungarian position that the policy towards the Soviet Union should also be coordinated, and subordinated to all-European interests.

In the evening, President Bush is to host a gala dinner for Jozsef Antall and the Hungarian delegation in the White House.

Notes Economic Need, Attends Dinner

LD1910123190 Budapest MTI in English 1110 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Washington, October 19 (MTI)—The President and Mrs Bush hosted a gala dinner in honor of Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and his wife, in the White House on Thursday evening.

Present at the dinner were several members of the American Administration and legislation, prominent figures of economic, intellectual and social life, including well-known Americans of Hungarian origin, for instance, Ede Teller, the nuclear physicist, Tony Curtis, the actor, and leading representatives of the Hungarian churches in the United States.

In his toast, President Bush said the Americans are in awe of the courage shown by the Hungarians in the past two years. A piece of the Iron Curtain, which he received during his visit to Budapest last year, is still in his office—as a symbol of this courage.

This is a very significant day in the life of the Hungarian people, Mr Antall began his toast. "We feel that you have done much for our freedom: You were firm and adhered to the moral principles which were introduced by the founding fathers. This past obliges both you and us."

On Friday morning, Mr. Antall is scheduled to hold a press conference in the National Press Club in Washington, and will then fly to Los Angeles, the last stop of his visit to the United States. In Los Angeles, Mr. Antall will meet with former President Ronald Reagan, and with leading businessmen, and representatives of the local Hungarians.

"The fact that interest is now focused on the Gulf crisis does not mean the United States has lost its interest for the Central and Eastern European changes, or that it would not support those," said Curtis Kamman, the American deputy foreign affairs secretary of state in charge, at a press conference held in the White House on Thursday.

The leading diplomat, who reported about the talks of Mr. Antall, said the two governments are continuing dialogue about the future security of Hungary, and other countries of the region, and matters of integration, as Hungary and, presumably, other Central-Eastern European countries, do not wish to remain members of the Warsaw Treaty.

"There was agreement in that the institutions of the European security process should be developed. It is probable that Hungary will create some sort of relation with the European Communities, and Washington supports this."

However, Washington does not propose that Hungary join NATO, but it does support relations between Hungary and NATO. Hungary was the first country which appointed a representative to NATO, and Prime Minister Antall the first East European leader who paid an official visit to NATO in Brussels, Mr Kamman said.

Washington would like the IMF to grant an additional 5,000 million dollars to the East European countries, in a greater degree than to date, and contrary to its current practice. The additional loans would be granted not only to Hungary, but would be proportionately distributed among the countries of the region, Mr. Kamman said. At the same time, Mr. Kamman noted the Hungarian side has indicated that assistance of some 4,000 million dollars would be needed to help overcome the economic crisis.

The prime minister and his party will leave Los Angeles for Budapest on Saturday.

Holds News Conference

LD1910201690 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Correspondents Tibor Fulop and Sandor Regos report on news conference given by Prime Minister Jozsef Antall on 19 October in Washington—Antall remarks recorded]

[Text] [Antall] The aim of our visit was to declare the new quality in Hungarian-U.S. relations that has been established since the taking of office by the Hungarian Government—the first to be elected freely since 1947. President Bush expressed his complete confidence in the decisive policy of the government in implementing a full market economy, while at the same time recognizing that political transformation can often be implemented more easily than economic change.

[Correspondent] Jozsef Antall then listed some of the measures the United States announced during the negotiations, such as the credit granted to alleviate the drought damage. He continued:

[Antall] In the course of our negotiations, we made our interlocutors familiar with our problems, differences of views in relation to the Soviet Union, including commercial relations, the difficulties relating to oil supplies and the Soviet financial demands in connection with the Soviet troop withdrawal. Even so, during our negotiations we did state that we highly vakue the efforts of Gorbachev, and that we consider him important from the point of view of stability in the region.

[Correspondent] Journalists asked several questions. One of them asked the prime minister to explain the government's poor performance at the local government elections.

[Antall] The negative phenomena burdening economic life and the necessary but unpopular measures did no good whatsoever. In this period, anyone who won the national elections and formed the government would have a great chance to lose the local government elections.

[Correspondent] An Egyptian journalist asked about the considerations on the basis of which Hungary served as a transit station for Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

[Antall] Hungary considers this to be an important human rights gesture. Hungary has always displayed similar behavior in terms of refugees. It would perhaps be enough if I refer here to the permission granted for the [East] German refugees to cross from Hungary, which led to the unification of Germany.

[Correspondent] There, of course, was a question about the Gulf crisis.

[Antall] Obviously it depends primarily on Iraq's behavior. I do not think that any country, particularly the free world, can recognize the invasion of a small country. I consider it to be fortunate that there presently exists an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, and that a kind of cooperation exists between them; furthermore, that the Arab countries, too, work together in this issue.

[Correspondent] The Washington news conference by Jozsef Antall concludes our report from Washington. Tomorrow we will report form Los Angeles, which is the last stop for Jozsef Antall in the United States.

More on Visit, News Conference

LD2010111990 Budapest MTI in English 1029 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Washington, October 19 (MTI) [date as received]—"President Bush assured me that the Gulf crisis and other questions would not divert the attention of the United States from East Central Europe," Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall told a news conference in Washington on Friday [19 October]. He said the U.S. Administration was aware of the grave consequences that the economic collapse of those countries that had just freed themselves from communism would involve. It would strengthen the forces of regression right up to China and gravely decrease the prestige of the free world.

The prime minister appreciated the friendly atmosphere of his visit and the fact that the United States recognised the Republic of Hungary as an entirely democratic and free country. Besides the economic and financial aid packages announced earlier, no more could be expected in this trip, Antall said. He added that the details were being elaborated by experts. [Word indistinct] side guaranteed that support would be continuous and Hungary could turn to Washington with its problems at any time. To co-ordinate U.S. support, an inter-governmental committee will be set up in Budapest, Antall said.

After parliamentary approval Hungary is prepared to send a medical unit composed of volunteers to the Gulf, the Hungarian prime minister said. It depends on Iraq's attitude as to whether or not there will be a military intervention in the region, Antall said. He welcomed U.S.-Soviet co-operation in settling the crisis.

In reply to questions, Antall repeatedly denied that there would be a wave of anti-Semitism in Hungary. He referred to Hungary's excellent relations with Israel and the fact that Hungary has the largest Jewish community between the Rhine and the Soviet border.

Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said [word indistinct] sought to settle the issue of national minorities on the basis of the Helsinki principles and did not want to isolate Romania. For this reason, Hungary advocates Romania's admission to the Council of Europe, Jeszenszky said.

On Friday, Jozsef Antall and his entourage left Washington for Los Angeles. The farewell ceremony was attended by Lawrence Eagleburger, deputy secretary of state.

In Los Angeles, Antall is scheduled to meet former President Ronald Reagan, representatives of the Hungarian community of California, and senior businessmen. The Hungarian delegation is to leave for home on Saturday.

Denies Report on Government Reshuffle

LD2010193590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 20 Oct 90

[By correspondent Gyorgy Bolgar]

[Text] [Bolgar] Jozsef Antall is staying in Los Angeles on the last day of his U.S. visit and soon he will participate in a ceremony commemorating 23 October. I shall report on this later, but here for a few minutes the principal role is being played by Hungarian domestic politics.

The prime minister, who has learned that today's MAGYAR HIRLAP writes about an impending government reshuffle, immediately announced that this was empty speculation and it had not been discussed by the government at all. It appears that Budapest is even close to Los Angeles.

[Announcer] Interior Minister Balazs Horvath, standing in for the prime minister, has also stated that Bertalan Andrasfalvy is not giving up the Ministry of Education portfolio.

Meets Hungarians in California

LD2010203190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0800 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Jozsef Antall met representatives of Hungarians living in in California as the next-to-last item on the agenda of his visit to the United States. The occasion was

the 23 October celebration of the colony living there. In his speech, the prime minister praised the perseverance of the Hungarians in the West and noted that a great responsibility will befall them to make our country, after the political changes, also thrive economically. Jozsef Antall invited two of the guests at the celebration, physician Ede Keller and Eva Szoerenyi, former actress of the National Theater, to visit Hungary.

Meets Reagan in California

LD2010212190 Budapest MTI in English 1719 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Los Angeles, October 20 (MTI)—On the last stop of his visit to the United States, in Los Angeles, Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall met businessmen from the city and its vicinity. Mr Antall reported about the state of Hungarian economy, the accelerating pace of privatization, and the investment opportunities.

Former American President Ronald Reagan then received the Hungarian prime minister, in his offices in Los Angeles. At the cordial meeting, Mr Antall appreciated the determining historical role of the former president in the world political changes, in repressing the Soviet influence, and, thereby, in the Central and East European transformation.

Mr Reagan was visibly moved by the words of Mr Antall, who presented a piece of the Iron Curtain to the former president. This souvenir will be included in the archives now being built, which will house the documents dating from Mr Reagan's years of office.

Mr Antall then met representatives of Hungarians living in California. The Hungarian organizations welcomed the prime minister in the Biltmore Hotel, at their ceremony marking October 23, the [passage indistinct].

Antall, Jeszenszky Interviewed on Visit

LD2010213690 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Antall and Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky by unidentified correspondent in Los Angeles; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] The last stop on Prime Minister Antall's U.S. visit is here in Los Angeles. The Hungarian prime minister is participating in the commemoration ceremony held by Hungarians in California in Mindszenthy Square at Macarthur Park on the occasion of the forthcoming anniversary of the 1956 revolution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] I have asked Joszef Antall to give a brief summation of his visit to the United States. Mr. Prime Minister, the Hungarian press as well as the television "Newsreel" have been reporting regularly on your visit. To put it directly, did we get what we had hoped for, or perhaps more or less?

[Antall] I think that we have been given what is possible to get in the course of such a vision; we have received full confidence. President Bush and the U.S. Government conveyed—in front of the entire United States and the whole world—its complete confidence in the new Hungary and the measures and policies of the Hungarian Government. By doing so, it has opened the way for the continuation of U.S investments, and it has given encouragement to business capital. Furthermore, the fact that the Hungarian delegation was given a special reception, both in the White House and in the U.S. Government offices, in the course of the visit has provided such international prestige that it means a great deal from the point of view of the future.

I would like to emphasize that everyone—both inside and outside our borders—must finally realize that Hungary needs the world's confidence, and we have received this not only by our having become a member of the Council of Europe, but also by our being able to enjoy the maximum trust outside Europe in the United States.

[Correspondent] I am now asking [Foreign Minister] Geza Jeszenszky what is valued, from a U.S. point of view, in Hungarian foreign policy.

[Jeszenszky] On the one hand, they appreciate that a stable foreign policy has clearly defined the principles concerning the approach toward the Warsaw Pact expressed in Moscow, and the responsibility with which we represent this approach both towards the East and West. We are not hurrying, but at the same time are taking steps in accordance with our determined aim. They also appreciate that Hungary represents a restrained but very consistent approach on minorities and on European ethnic conflicts.

[Correspondent] It is possible that this next question sounds a bit crude. Does the United States expect Hungary to spectacularly dissociate itself from the Soviet Union?

[Jeszenszky] It is not expected whatsoever, but nor is there any question of it. On the contrary, it was precisely that which was appreciated by Secretary of State Baker, who expressed this in a conversation with me. He said that Hungarian foreign policy on the Soviet Union is not only predictable, but that it manifests an attitude to help the Gorbachev-led reform forces, or the forces supporting him, to take the upper hand; furthermore, the actions of Hungarian foreign policy are judged in the United States in such a way that steps promote this.

Views Visit, Denies Anti-Soviet Remarks

LD2110111190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Jozsef Antall has described the U.S. tour of the Hungarian Government delegation as a breakthrough. At the end of his visit, the prime minister said that owing to the U.S. budget situation we can expect only a limited amount of help from Washington, but the assistance of the United States in international financial institutions

is significant. There are hopes that we may be able to obtain Middle East oil under more favorable conditions and that, via the mediation of the U.S., our loses in the wake of the Gulf crisis might decrease.

Jozsef Antall denied that anti-Soviet statements had been voiced by the Hungarian side in the United States, where the Hungarian party gave an objective briefing about the Warsaw Pact and Hungarian-Soviet relations.

Comments on Possible Gorbachev Visit

LD2110191890 Budapest MTI in English 1736 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 21 (MTI)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and his party returned to Budapest from their official visit to the United States, on Sunday afternoon.

Following the arrival, the prime minister briefly answered questions by journalists. He said that Hungarian-American relations, which developed in a welcome manner in the past, have become even closer with his now ended overseas visit. A [words indistinct] is that the United States promised assistance to overcome Hungary's possible, extreme difficulties. Assistance of this kind is the financial as [words indistinct] to be provided to ease the damage caused by the (?economic) and the energy problems also fall under this heading.

Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky added to this that the matter of energy problems has been raised in the course of talks held with other countries, and it can be said on the basis of these that all friends of Hungary are interested in preventing that Hungarian economy be placed in a critical situation because of energy problems.

In answer to a question of whether a meeting between Mr Antall and Mikhail Gorbachev is among the [word indistinct] the prime minister said: No concrete date has been set for such a meeting as yet. This, however, does not mean that the political, or the personal intention is missing for the discussion. Additional coordination will be necessary for this.

Visa Requirement for U.S. Citizens Dropped

LD1910090890 Budapest MTI in English 0634 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Washington, October 18 (MTI)—The Hungarian side announced it would drop the visa requirement for citizens of the United States, Deputy Foreign Secretary of State Curtis Kamman said on Thursday evening.

For lack of authorization from the Congress, the Americans are now not in a position to cancel the visa requirement, but they will lift the duty on visas, he said.

Foreign Ministry Official Queried on Romania

AU1910114690 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 17 Oct 90 p 3

[Interview with Imre Szokai, deputy state secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by Katalin Decsi; place and date not given: "The Romanian Key Does Not Fit Into the Hungarian Lock"; first paragraph is NEPSZAVA introduction]

[Text] We would like to develop our relations with all our neighbors on the basis of the new European principles. On this basis we want to solve the problems inherited from the past, as well as the newly emerging problems. We are also striving to come to an agreement with Romania, but guaranteeing the individual and collective rights of minorities, including the rights of the Hungarians living in Romania, is a question of principle for the Hungarian Government. All this was said by Imre Szokai during an interview with our correspondent.

[Decsi] During his visit in Hungary, Romanian Foreign Ministry State Secretary Romulus Neagu said that you had succeeded in finding the key to Romanian-Hungarian relations.

[Szokai] Unfortunately, it seems that the Romanian key does not fit the Hungarian lock because Romanian policy has essentially remained the same. The Romanian Government continues to come up with the same type of preconditions in terms of Hungarian policy and continues to voice accusations just as in the Ceausescu era. In other words, Hungarian policy should change, and then there will be no obstacles in the way of settling our bilateral disagreements. Of course, during our talks, Mr. Neagu did not say that.

I, however, was not surprised by this. This was not the first time the Romanian side had expressed a certain view at official talks, and then claimed the opposite in public. This attitude also proves that no essential change has taken place in the Romanian political system.

[Decsi] Why do the Romanians have reservations about passing legislation on a national minority code which would include the collective and individual rights of national minorities?

[Szokai] If you asked a Romanian diplomat, he would probably say that Romania has already "taken several large-scale initiatives" in this respect. Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, however, said in New York that it was foolish to speak about collective rights because international law and practice do not know such rights. I think that they should read the documents recently adopted in Europe, like the documents of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, or the Vienna documents. All these documents formulate very firm requirements in connection with national minorities.

It seems that there is an extremely strong feeling of inferiority and strong suspicion in the Romanian attitude. As a result, in Romanian-Hungarian relations, they refuse to accept the norms and forms of cooperation which are valid among the European states. I hope that Romanian society will consistently carry out the process of democratization and will create the conditions for including Romania in Europe. For us, European states, it is very important to help in this endeavor. If this takes place, we will be able to expect essential and favorable changes in our bilateral relations too.

[Decsi] The refugee issue is a very big burden in our bilateral relations. Did you discuss this problem during your talks this summer?

[Szokai] I said that the Romanian Government should do everything in its power to halt the increase in the wave of refugees. We should consider ways to persuade the refugees to return, and we should do this either jointly or separately. I came up with the proposal to hold tripartite negotiations with the participation of the UN High Commission for Refugees. The Romanian Government should provide stability and legal and living security for its citizens in order to halt their emigration. The Romanian Government should also guarantee the rehabilitation of its returning citizens in terms of legal and property rights.

Some 800,000 people have fled Romania for various parts of the world since December 1989. If this flow of refugees continues, the fleeing Romanian citizens themselves will clearly prove that there is no legality and stability in that country, no matter what the Romanian Government claims. We are not just talking about the Hungarians. The German minority has practically ceased to exist in Romania; the number of Jews has decreased to a minimum, and the Gypsy population is fleeing the country in masses. I ask you: Is this not the same policy of creating an ethnically homogeneous national state as was carried out under Ceausescu?

[Decsi] In your opinion, would a higher-level meeting give a new impetus to negotiations?

[Szokai] That is doubtful. In the past 15 years, there were two or three high-level meetings, followed by a total decrease in bilateral relations. Besides, the two foreign ministers recently met in New York. Incidentally, the Romanian side showed a two-faced attitude here, too. At the talks, the Romanian foreign minister took a flexible and constructive stand, while back at home, he gave an interview full of mistakes and shortcomings deriving from an inadequate knowledge of international relations. Contrary to the atmosphere of the talks, he presented preconditions in respect of Hungarian policy and used the same accusations which the Romanian side had already formulated 15 years ago.

Another paradox is the fact that, while Romanian President Ion Iliescu has repeatedly expressed his desire to meet Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, the Romanian political press is unable to overcome the fact that, as a writer, Arpad Goncz translated a book by Bajcsy-Zsilinszky [author of "Transylvania: Past and Future," leader of Hungarian students' freedom front] three years ago.

The Romanians present this now as the official manifestation of current Hungarian policy. One could list several other examples. Can one trust someone who displays such an attitude?

The Hungarian side has never refused any meeting; however, we see such a meeting as meaningful only if it leads to concrete results. The Hungarian leaders do not have time for meetings in which the two sides shake hands and exchange niceties.

[Decsi] Has the Hungarian president received an official invitation from the Romanian president?

[Szokai] Diplomacy has certain rules. I would not consider it to be against European norms if President Iliescu wrote a letter to the Hungarian president suggesting such a meeting, including the goal and the sense of the negotiations, simply to be able to prepare for the meeting. No such letter has been received. In spite of the continued campaign of discrediting the Hungarian president in the Romanian press—and, naturally, we would welcome if they put an end to this campaign—I do not regard the holding of a well-prepared meeting as something impossible.

Relations Develop With Romanian Army

LD1910083190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0800 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The Hungarian and Romanian defense ministers have held talks on developing relations between the two armies. They agreed to adopt a framework agreement in which the mutual provision of information, exchange of experiences, and professional meetings of military leaders and commanders would be given an important role. At the working meeting which was held in Gyula and Arad, the two ministers agreed that they would mutually inform each other of the results of research conducted by Hungarian and Romanian military historians, and that they would discuss divergent opinions.

Szabad Holds Talks With Thai Delegation

LD1910090190 Budapest MTI in English 0636 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 18 (MTI)—Gyorgy Szabad, speaker of the Hungarian parliament, met General Pisit Hemabutr, first vice president of the Senate of the Thai National Assembly, currently heading a delegation to Hungary, in his office on Thursday.

During the meeting, Gyorgy Szabad stressed the importance of intensifying economic links between the two countries.

General Pisit Hemabutr spoke appreciatively of the changes in Hungary, and declared Thailand's interest in the continued expansion of relations.

On behalf of the Thai Senate and House of Representatives, he invited Gyorgy Szabad to visit Thailand. The date of the trip will be fixed at a later date.

MSZMP News Conference on Election Results

LD1810162690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] [Announcer] Although the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [MSZMP] is not in parliament, the results it achieved in the local elections ensures that its representatives can be present in local government—that is, in local power. Krisztina Antalfi reports on its news conference:

[Antalfi] According to the MSZMP chairman, towns and villages said no to the policy of the Antall government in the course of the local elections. Evaluating their own performance, Gyula Thurmer said that the MSZMP, with the election of the 101 Workers' Party representatives, had become a participant in local power. Speaking about the tasks of the future, the party chairman outlined three MSZMP proposals according to which a so-called consultative council of the republic should be established with the participation of the parliamentary and nonparliamentary parties and the trade unions, in the interest of reducing political tension on the one hand, and for the representation of the interests of those who did not go to the polls on the other. The MSZMP urges a law guaranteeing the operation of parties, and it insists that the party law should eliminate foreign support for parties.

Socialist Party Submits Property Account

LD1910122290 Budapest MTI in English 1056 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Budapest, October 18 (MTI)—The Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) [MSZP] has drawn up accounts of its 8,700 million forints' worth of property. The 2,366-page report was handed over to the head of the State Audit Office.

Journalists were told on Thursday that the party gave over 2,352 real estates to the state for various uses, retaining no more than 364 buildings. The listed works of art, valuable paintings and articles for personal use, including the presents of Janos Kadar, will pass into the collection of the Museum of Modern History.

The onetime companies of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party—the newspaper publishing company, the Institute of Social Sciences, the former Transport Technology Company, and the Szikra newspaper prints—have been transferred into state hands, and the county newspapers have been sold. The income from these sales, about 530 million forints, will be turned by the party to the good of the public, such as the schooling of poor children of ability, skilled workers' training and re-training programmes, and the support of low-income pensioners.

They also announced that after the accounting, they would immediately turn to the Constitutional Court because they regard the law on the property account of certain social organizations ties to the former regime as discriminating. The law sorts the HSP into this category in present tense, largely curtailing the party's chances in public life.

Journalists were told that the HSP Congress would be held in Siofok from November 9th-11th. Participants will draw a balance of the shift in system, discuss the role of the Socialist Party in the process, and outline their political programme compiled in the spirit of democratic socialism.

The HSP workers' section is to hold a memorial session on Saturday. They will recall the activities of the 1956 workers' councils, and probably take a stand on today's workers' councils as well.

Journalists were acquainted with the congratulatory telegram of Party President Gyula Horn to Mikhail Gorbachev saying that the Nobel Peace Prize is a due recognition for the work of the CPSU general secretary, and the new Soviet foreign political thinking which has brought essential changes in international relations, giving way to democratization in the Central and East European countries.

Comments on Economic Policy

LD2010193690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] [Announcer] The Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] has held a news briefing in the parliament building. Zsuzsa Vajda reports:

[Vajda] Fifteen laws will have to be adopted by the end of the year to prepare next year's budget. To prevent the economic crisis that threatens, the MSZP group of deputies addressed an appeal to the parliamentary parties, in which it noted: For the remainder of the year all efforts must be focused on solving the economic questions, because, as deputy Laszlo Bekesi said, the galloping inflation and thousands of unemployed could give rise to dissatisfaction. For example, the losses stemming from the transition from rubles to dollars will amount to 1.5 billion [currency not specified]. A good relationship should, by all means, be shaped with the Soviet Union, because we still owe 800-900 million rubles. At the moment, we can expect basic materials and oil only from the Soviet Union.

On the topic of social insurance and pension supplements, MSZP deputy Judit Csehak said that, in her opinion, the government could do much more, because wage increases have been 25-26 percent. Thus, the revenues from social insurance are much higher than planned.

Walesa Reflects on Political, Moral Issues

PM2210085190 Lodz GLOS PORANNY in Polish 22-23 Sep 90 pp 1, 4, 5, 6

[Interview with Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa by GLOS PORANNY correspondent Tomasz Soldenhoff in Gdansk on 14 September]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Soldenhoff] What are the practical chances of faith and religion's influencing politics?

[Walesa] Because others have taken these [religious] values away from us, we say today that politics is dirty, dishonest, and reprehensible. It is high time to rely on these values again. Then politics will no longer be dirty: It will be honest and acceptable. It will also be based on honor as it used to be. So all this simply tells us that it is now time to reflect, time to harness civilization for the task of cleaning up politics and scraping away all these growths. And I believe—I deeply believe—that this is bound to happen.

[Soldenhoff] What are the reasons for the social apathy? In your addresses you charge social elites and political leaders with failing to create programs which truly attract people. But do the reasons for the apathy not go deeper than this? Are they not attributable also to the condition of the church...? The church can also be immoral at times. Such instances have been known. The church can also sometimes provoke attitudes of skepticism.... Perhaps it is not doing enough to galvanize people into activity?

[Walesa] No. I am a traditionalist and I will never judge the church according to that criterion, although I think that the people who are in the church and who indeed constitute that church do not keep up with this fashion for sharp practice, with all the negative things that take place. After all it is we, the ordinary people, who make up the church—and the priests are not from the Moon, either. They come from among us and they also make mistakes.... Well then, if a person takes on the task of running and directing the show, as I have, he must address his task with sufficient responsibility for what is going on. If I am to be the teacher I must teach. If we have all taken on the task of ruling the country, we must know how to engage the people's help so that they—that is, those committed to help us—serve us and our cause better. It is not their fault if we do not know how to do it.

I blame the elites—including myself—for the current state of affairs and for the fact that I cannot reach them. Even if they do not want to engage in actual politics—and they have every right to do so—they can find some other way of doing what they can do. If a man shows any practical talents today, he ought to be given the material to use those talents to his own and everyone else's advantage. But we do not know how to achieve that....

Is this possible at all, though, a mere year after communism—or perhaps still with communism present here? It is difficult, but we certainly should attempt it. By "we" I mean the elites. All those who belong to these elites bear the blame for not being able to help the people so that they have more, are satisfied with what they have, and praise us for it more....

I will not turn away from the path I have taken; however I only provoke certain reactions, and the others—the theoreticians—should then handle them because I am not a theoretician.

[Soldenhoff] But do you not think that those theoreticians, intellectuals, and people involved with culture all stand a little to one side of your path? Especially after the split in the Citizens' Committee...? You are accused of attracting too many populist politicians around you—indeed, of being a populist yourself....

[Walesa] Just a moment.... Yes that is true, but for me, as a practitioner rather than a theoretician, it follows from a different premise. It was all supposed to be different. There was supposed to be active involvement, and there would have been active involvement since active involvement always accompanies the struggle for better things and against evil; in fact, it accompanies all struggle.... Struggle forces you to be active. And that positive element was there even in the structure of the roundtable configuration of forces. It was also there in the subsequent "65:35 scheme" [referring to percentages of Sejm seats reserved for governing coalition and opposition respectively]. However, as soon as all this collapsed the struggle and confrontation came to an end and we sent people back to their corners, while at the same time preserving the immoral and unethical power setups and invoking democracy while remaining undemocratic. The old style was still maintained while we tried to invent a theory to justify the immoral and unethical elements which should have been eliminated right away in the first place.

All these factors must be held responsible for creating the results with which we have to contend now. I constantly hear arguments that this state of affairs could be accepted as the more convenient. The type of president represented by Jaruzelski could be more convenient for the premier.... A docile Sejm is easier to deal with when it comes to the passing of certain laws.... But it is not convenience which is at stake here.

If we place our bets on democracy, then the objective of this democracy is to rearrange things—to rearrange even the inferior things and to create something worthwhile. If 65 percent of people have no inclination to rearrange things—not a single man among them, and they may also have wives who are opposed to it—then it is better to have one of those "visionaries"—never mind whom, it could be Moczulski—and his ten supporters, and together with their wives he has twenty people already.... [sentence as published] And that would be worth a lot more; it is the mathematic of democracy.... If we do not apply this, any other course is a derivative one. But it can be defended. THEY defend such a course. But it is not defensible [as published]; moreover, it is the underlying

cause of all negative things which are taking place today. And I am to blame because I should have intervened right away, but I believed my friends when they assured me that they would achieve the "take off" by themselves.... They did not "take off"—and I woke up too late.

[Soldenhoff] Is it too late?

[Walesa] Oh God in heaven, Eternal Father, is it too late? I am not even quite convinced that what I am doing will not lead me straight to the block.... It could happen. But the main thing is that I am doing my best and no one can claim otherwise; no one can deny that I am trying to improve things—sometimes even to improve my colleagues... or to provoke situations.... My role is to provoke situations....

[Soldenhoff] But in this way you create divisions.... There are some who criticize you for it—for instance, Stefan Bratkowski....

[Walesa] But this is laughable! Wait a moment! Look here! The same Bratkowski who says that I create divisions, and who at the same time claims that I am not a democrat, whereas he is one and intends to achieve unity? This is confusion upon confusion. If I create divisions it means that I make my own position weaker. And if I make my position weaker, it means that I am not aiming for the presidency because, if I were, I would strive for unity and declare a Solidarity resolution stating that I must be made president. But if I create divisions, I am a better democrat.

[Soldenhoff] Let us continue with the question of divisions.... Do you not have a somewhat one-sided picture of the Polish public? You say that each and every Pole would like to have a party of his own....

[Walesa] Or even a couple of parties....

[Soldenhoff] ...and that if each and every Pole had a party of his own, he could speak his mind openly and be free.... But in practice we have seen that the majority of people have not even taken the trouble to vote.... Perhaps they are not interested in politics? Have you not overestimated their political involvement?

[Walesa] No, no.... Just a moment—a moment.... What do you mean, "have not taken the trouble to vote"? This means that I am right, because they represent no fewer than 40 million political parties but do not identify with any of the already existing ones. So I was right.... This represents the postcommunist legacy, and it is up to us now to extricate ourselves from it.... We may even deny firmly that we are or ever were Communists, but we have subconsciously absorbed so much communism that.... God help us! Take this example: This miserable old man comes whining to me that the bread rolls are too dear. Well, what should he be doing about it? He should set up his own bakery business right away.... And start making money because there is money in it! And if everybody did that, everything would be as it should...! I am very annoyed that we allow ourselves to be deceived with such simple tricks—especially the intelligentsia; that is, the intellectual communities allow themselves to be cheated by people like Turowicz, Bratkowski, or others like them; they accept completely contradictory arguments—arguments which contain two contradictions in one sentence—and they take them both at face value....

[Soldenhoff] We note a growing variety of phenomena which reflect badly on the moral condition of Polish society: the large-scale vodka smuggling operation, the alcoholism... and all these in a country which is supposedly Catholic. What do you say to this?

[Walesa] As regards the vodka-smuggling affair, I would say the following: If only my voice had been heeded in the past; if only it were heeded today; if it is to be heeded tomorrow, then the decrees I advocated will need to be passed. And then, if even the slightest transgression came to light—even one half-liter bottle of vodka too many—it could be dealt with promptly and nipped in the bud on the strength of the decree.... I do not know who should pass the actual decree—whether it could be the premier, or an interparliamentary group—but the responsible body could then immediately say: "Just a moment, gentlemen, the vodka must be stopped; please convene the Sejm, the parliament; the parliament should take note of what is going on because there is something very odd going on...." Decrees have long been necessary, are necessary now, and will long remain necessary.

And as to what they have actually done.... And then they say that I want to rule by decree! It is not true! It was a truly brilliant idea, but it was only suggested somewhere at a mass rally and it has not been refined; it has not been rearranged.

[Soldenhoff] And what about the work ethic? What is your opinion of the Polish people's attitude to work?

[Walesa] Well, yes, this is another contradiction which is inherent in my—in our—situation. I cannot say: My dear Polish people, please work harder," when they can all see that the president, with a staff of some 500 or 1,000 people, collects his salary and does nothing whatsoever...! What arguments can I use to persuade them to work harder? What arguments can I use to explain why 65 percent of deputies, who have in all probability allowed all kinds of old records of their past activity to disappear without trace and all kinds of old mafias to go unpunished, still retain their Sejm seats and are feeling pleased with themselves? The same people who ruined Poland before. I have no arguments to back my plea of "work harder old friends," though I would very much like to be able to say it. The influence of these immoral examples is spreading all around and doing a lot of damage.... So how can I persuade you? By exhorting you to work, only to be cheated later?

[Soldenhoff] People in Poland are afraid that shares and property are going to be bought out by foreign capital. What is your reply to these fears?

[Walesa] I reply to them: Considering the fact that we are not doing very well, we should sell some 10 percent of our shares in order to earn some dollars, and give 20 percent of fixed assets to Polish people. The rest we can buy back as soon as we get the free stock exchange established here, with the proviso that foreign capital can have up to, say, a 20 percent share and Poles up to 90 percent....[as published]

[Soldenhoff] Yes, but these decisions must be made openly so that people can know about them beforehand....

[Walesa] They can be very easily checked in this era of computerization.

[Soldenhoff] Where do you have the largest numbers of allies now? In the church?

[Walesa] (laughing) For the time being I do not need allies at all, because I am in a position where I can speak but I have no executive powers; I have no powers to make decisions, except for those in the union. And in the union I am supposed to be a populist, although I try to hold out against that because I have no reason to be a populist. And so, considering that my position is peculiar in this way, I cannot expect—I do not expect—to have allies here. However, very soon now—in only a matter of hours—I will make a decision on whether or not I should begin to campaign for supporters. If I decide that I must win supporters, then I will submit programs which will be bound to bring me supporters.

[Soldenhoff] Will you take advantage of the church's assistance in your election campaign? Is there an agreement to that effect?

[Walesa] No. No agreements! There cannot be any. I regard the church as standing above all this. I belong to the church, but the church should not involve itself in the affairs of dirty politics as long as politics remains dirty.

[Soldenhoff] What is the role of the church today?

[Walesa] I have already said many times that at the present time the "substitute" role which the church played for a long time can be played no longer. The church is turning back to its higher causes and leaving our cause in our hands. This is difficult to achieve in human terms, because all those kings and presidents used to come to the church before, whereas they now come here. This is unfortunate, but we must bear it somehow. I have said before that I was suffering from a "moral hangover" myself; I am in a difficult position because this is not a move of which I could be proud of as an ordinary human being; however, as a politician, considering the role we have to play and the times in which we have to play it, I am obliged to approve it. The roles have been reversed: the church had a "substitute" role to play in the old days because we could not play our proper role. Once it had played that role successfully we could claim our own place again. Well of course the church deserves our deepest respect and recognition—and it has that; but it has done its job and now we are doing ours....

[Soldenhoff] The church is pursuing its own policy. Is the church's policy in any way contrary to your policy?

[Walesa] No. It cannot be contrary to it because people who have really good intentions can always come to an agreement. I do not believe in policy conflicts of this kind, as long as we use fair and honest methods to sort the matter out. If such conflicts occur, it means that I am too weak, that I cannot sort things out so as to eliminate them. Well, there are times when I want conflicts to occur, but this is an altogether different matter....

[Soldenhoff] Are you not afraid that a weakened, weary society could not take them any more?

[Walesa] Wait a moment! I have come to the conclusion that big trees do not let grass grow in their shade. When we had the one big tree by the name of Solidarity, I could not get any smaller Christian or other groups to grow in its shade. Now if I split it up, if I cut it into halves and then into halves again, then all the little groups will get their chance to grow, and grow they will.... This is ordinary peasant wisdom: simple and effective.

[Soldenhoff] Should these smaller groups comprise exclusively political parties, or also groups of a different nature: communities united by their striving for ideals and values?

[Walesa] Let me answer that question: If Europe, which ought to join ranks with us and attain its own solidarity, does not want to do it, and if I am supposed to be in Europe, then I must want the same things as Europe wants.... It wants me to be divided, so I must be divided. Consequently, for the time being I must imitate Europe in order to gain contacts. I tend to favor the whole Christian orientation because I am in it myself and I do not hold any different faith: Poland is a Christian country. So I favor the Christian orientation above others. However, I saw that that way we were not getting any results—or that the results were contrary to the ones we wanted—and that is why I came to the conclusion that I could not afford it. And that is why I did what I did.

[Soldenhoff] Was it because a number of monopoly situations were created?

[Walesa] Yes it was. And do you know the difference between ourselves and the Communists? The difference is that we are achieving a monopoly situation much faster than the Communists did. That is the real difference between us and the Communists!

[Soldenhoff] Could you give me some more information about your recent meeting with the pope?

[Walesa] I can give you just one sentence on the subject of the pope: Of all those who either do not understand me or do understand me, the pope is the one who understands me best.

[Soldenhoff] Well, to add a final touch to this interview, let me tell you that I will vote for you.

[Walesa] There you are, then! I have you here: By voting for me, you will vote for yourself! After all, I am the person who wants to gather all those separate currents and orientations which should have reached our goal, but could not because they remained outside. And I also want to curb those which were at their best in the heat of the battle because now the battle is over and the work has begun. Thus, by voting for me all those people show that they want to be in the mainstream.

[Soldenhoff] Until now, many could not do it; many groups....

[Walesa] How could you have done, if at that time I was winning my victories without engaging in battle? After all, if I represented such a force, I only needed to maintain it; to set up monopolies.... So do you see why I lay myself open? In order that you can make it—all of you.

[Soldenhoff] Thank you for talking to us.

Balcerowicz Discusses Status of Economic Growth

AU1910141390 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 12 Oct 90 p 3

["Excerpts" of speech delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz to the Sejm in Warsaw on 11 October]

[Text] A year ago Tadeusz Mazowiecki's government began implementing fundamental institutional changes in Poland

We had to check those processes that were damaging the economy because it was impossible to change the economic system effectively when inflation was rampant.

At the same time, we had to introduce important changes in the economic system. The institutional changes, which by their very nature require more time and lengthier preparations, could not wait for the completion of the process of stabilizing the economy.

Regarding the key issue, that of curbing inflation, from an increase in retail prices of 79 percent in January we attained a rate of increase of 1.8 percent in August. This is not only the lowest rate since the beginning of the program, but also the lowest in two years.

It is true that inflation rose to 4.5 percent in September—according to preliminary date—but this was above all a result of the price of oil on world markets. The inflation that was triggered by this development affected all countries, including the rich ones.

The result of the stabilization program makes us stand out in a positive way among the other countries of the former East bloc. Most of these countries are still to negotiate the first obstacle, that of introducing free market prices and eliminating lines, which is something that we already have behind us. None of these countries have made as much progress in introducing institutional changes and currency convertibility as Poland. At the same time, they are having to bear the ever increasing costs entailed by the collapse of the old system without building anything to replace it.

This is borne out by the decline in industrial output in these countries—Bulgaria by 13 percent and Romania by 23 percent—and as we know, the crisis in the Soviet Union is becoming increasingly severe.

Today no one questions the effects of the stabilization program any more. However, it is being said that the same or even better results could have been obtained at a lower cost.

I would like to say two things about this.

First, fighting inflation is costly. Wherever there was reluctance to implement consistent, resolute measures the fight failed. Chile is the only country in South America to have successfully crushed high inflation while experiencing a drop in industrial output of almost 40 percent. Today, it is practically the only country on that continent with a stable and dynamic economy.

In our case, unfortunately, the cost of stabilizing and changing the economic system has to be great because the undertaking is of an unprecedented kind. We had to wage a struggle against galloping inflation, widespread shortages, and create a new pricing system and a new economic system all at the same time.

Second, to assess whether the costs of a particular undertaking are excessive, one has to know their true scale.

There was a significant drop in the population's real income—statistically it amounted to 27 percent, however in reality the decline was smaller. In assessing the extent to which real incomes fell, it has to be remembered that we are already comparing two different economies: The economy that existed last year, one in which there was an excessive amount of money in circulation in relation to the quantity of goods available, and today's economy in which there is a balanced market.

Over the past two years wages had been rising more rapidly than prices, but there was no real rise in the standard of living. For 100 percent of nominal wages, it was only possible to buy goods that would account for 85 percent of their value because that was the quantity of goods available in the market. The difference was a sort of inflation tax.

The situation this year is different. There was a sharp drop in real wages at the beginning of the year. It then

became possible to check that drop and to achieve a certain increase in real wages in the third quarter.

Turning to the problem of the recession, there really has been a serious drop in output. However it has to be emphasized that calculations based on the value of sold output do not, by the nature of things, take account of structural changes. The Main Office of Statistics Department for Economic Statistics and the Polish Academy of Sciences calculated the drop in output employing the methods used in market economies. These methods take account of the areas in which the highest growth rates have been attained, areas such as retail trade and services. According to these calculations, the true level of the recession amounted to between 15 and 16 percent.

On the basis of the results obtained in the economy, especially the success in curbing inflation and the budget and trade surpluses, the government began making adjustments in April.

The first moves included greater freedom to export through increasing or completely eliminating quotas on the export of coal, sulfur, and agricultural produce. Import duties on farm machinery and other agricultural production inputs were abolished.

In May, the banks relaxed credit policy and, for example, introduced agricultural credits at a fixed lower rate of interest. At the same time tax exemptions were introduced for newly formed private sector businesses.

These adjustments were stepped up in June and July. There was a basic reduction in duties and tariffs; the tax rate on wage increases was lowered; and there was an increase in budget expenditure on housing construction, the construction of schools and hospitals under regional investment projects, as well as on the restructuring of the dairy industry. Funds were made available for government intervention to buy coal in order to offset the temporary drop in demand for coal and to create conditions that would prevent an excessive increase in its price at some later stage.

Special reduced interest loans were introduced for the purchase of agricultural produce, work was stepped up on the creation of a Farm Market Agency, and funds were made available for the development of the dairy industry in areas where procurement prices are low.

The Sejm's adoption of the laws on privatization and regulations governing premises made it possible to accelerate the so-called smaller privatization process, that is the privatization of shops, small factories, and service sector businesses. Favorable conditions are being created for the expansion of small-scale production through the opening up of special credit lines as was recently done by the Polish-American Enterprise Fund.

There are many grounds for concluding that we are witnessing an economic upswing and that positive structural changes are taking place. This is borne out by among other things developments in foreign trade and the trends in agriculture, as was indicated by this year's exceptionally good harvest.

The third quarter of this year saw exports to the convertible currency area rise by the highest amount registered this year. In September exports rose by as much as 52.5 percent compared to September 1989. This shows that the capacity of Polish manufacturers to adapt to the more demanding requirements of Western markets is greater than originally believed.

Imports for convertible currencies have been rising since June. It has to be stressed that the goods being imported are ones needed for expansion and modernization rather than consumer goods. During the first nine months of this year imports for investment purposes from free market countries were 24 percent higher than in the January-September period last year. This may mean that the economy is recovering a capacity for growth.

As far as foreign trade is concerned, we are essentially achieving a large balance of payments surplus. We are sometimes criticized for this state of affairs. However, if this surplus did not exist we would have to look toward the future with much less certainty. Complications prompted by reduced deliveries of Soviet oil along with higher oil prices on world markets would create disorder in the economy, which is what we are seeing in other countries.

The changes that are taking place in the structure of industrial production are positive. Over the past few months in particular, there has been a rapid rise in the production of consumer goods, especially in the food and light industries. An increasingly clear division into groups of good and bad enterprises is occurring in individual branches of the economy. The good indicators for agriculture show that the private sector is adapting faster and better to new market conditions. This strengthens our conviction that we should treat agriculture in the way that we are treating the economy as a whole, that is we should be increasingly guided by the philosophy of backing development rather than supporting vegetation.

Intensive growth is taking place in the non-agricultural private sector. It already provides about 11 percent of sold industrial output and accounts for almost 27 percent of construction industry output. During the first half of the year, output in the private sector as a whole rose by 25 percent in relation to the first half of 1989.

However, further economic developments will also be affected by external factors. We face three great hurdles:

—the effect of the conflict in the Persian Gulf;

—the changeover to new mechanisms for settlements and trade with the Soviet Union;

—the effects of the unification of Germany in the form of reduced exports to that country.

It sometimes takes courage to speak the truth. The truth is awkward. New, external difficulties are beginning to appear just as we are beginning to see the positive effects that have been produced by our efforts and sacrifices. This will create more difficult conditions for starting out in 1991 than those that would have stemmed from the results that have already been obtained through the economic program.

The government's tasks for the upcoming period can be said to be as follows: Above all, the results that have been obtained are not to be lost; there is to be no turning back from the chosen path. The disruption of stabilization would mean losing the opportunity to implement rapid institutional changes and a return to hyperinflation and lines everywhere. So there can be no weakening of the defenses protecting us from an avalanche of negative processes in the economy.

However, by using noninflationary means we intend to assist those forces in the economy that are generating an economic upturn.

This requires two fundamental changes:

—first, changes in ownership and the privatization of enterprises in particular;

—second, the creation of an environment for enterprises that will induce them to become more efficient.

The scale of the ownership changes that we intend to introduce in Poland cannot be compared with any similar experiences that may have occurred elsewhere in the world. In the space of a few years we must achieve that kind of ownership structure that exists in the developed countries of the West. We can only make use of the experiences of other countries to a very limited extent. We have to find solutions of our own.

The public's attention has centered on the privatization of large enterprises. The privatization of these enterprises entails transforming them into state treasury companies with the state treasury acting as sole stockholder. Stock and share holdings in these companies will then be sold off.

Inadequate domestic capital resources are an obstacle to privatization.

To surmount this obstacle, the government intends, in accordance with law, to issue privatization bills that are to be distributed to all citizens at no charge.

Citizens who do not wish to acquire shares in individual enterprises will be able to use their privatization bills to acquire stockholdings in institutions that will deal in securities held in numerous enterprises, which will issue their own stocks and shares. This will make it possible to reduce the risks involved in purchasing stocks and shares.

A third means of compensating for the shortage of domestic capital will be the introduction of a special loans system. It will possible to take out loans to acquire private property with the loans being repaid out of future revenue.

However, it is clear that it will not be possible to privatize the entire economy by the end of 1991, even at the rapid rate that is envisaged. An opportunity will be created for those enterprises that are not privatized within this period to change their status from that of a state enterprise to that of a state treasury company with the state as sole stockholder.

The organs that will be established in the company—the supervisory board and board of directors—will facilitate better decisionmaking.

In accordance with the privatization law, one third of the seats on the supervisory board will be allocated to representatives of the work force and the remainder will be reserved for representatives of the state treasury. It is the government's intention that seats on the supervisory board be occupied by top specialists—members of chambers of commerce, economic associations, and representatives of the self-management movement. We want that valuable capital of experience and knowledge possessed by self-management activists to be put to optimal use under new institutional conditions.

The present ownership structure means that it is still necessary to impose strong curbs on wages by means of a tax on supernumerary pay awards. The level of these curbs will be related to the degree to which enterprises have been privatized and on the degree of competition that they will encounter in the marketplace.

The extent to which an enterprise has become a commercial operation will make it possible to partially relax the amount of tax levied on supernumerary pay awards. Full privatization will permit the abolition of the tax.

Promoting competition is a further basic element of the planned changes.

The role of the state in creating conditions that encourage competition consists in maintaining free trade, instituting measures that dismantle monopolies or prevent their emergence, and breaking up the excessive concentration of structures in production and commercial spheres. The government will create conditions that will promote the emergence of new economic units, both in Poland and abroad.

Next year will be the beginning of an ongoing process of improving living conditions for society without losing the results that have been obtained in the stabilization field.

These will be possible if two conditions are met:

—the sociopolitical situation in the country will make it possible to maintain the necessary anti-inflationary stringency measures and progress is made in introducing institutional changes;

—external factors that will have a destructive effect on our economy will not exceed the level currently envisaged.

If these conditions exist throughout the year it will be possible to maintain a stable currency and stable prices in our country.

It will also be possible to expect the flow of goods to the marketplace to continually improve and the structure of production to improve. Next year Poland will also be able to embark on a path of gradual but lasting growth.

Next year we should already see tangible progress in areas such housing construction and telecommunications.

There will also be negative phenomena of the kind that appeared this year—that is the price for the change that we want. This will include unemployment above all. We will combat it by means of an active policy so that periods of unemployment will be as short as possible. We can also expect more enterprises to go into liquidation than this year. This will be a phenomenon that will attend the acceleration of structural changes.

This past period was very difficult for all of us. I know that many people are concerned and feel lost and confused. This is natural during times of great and rapid change. However, it has to be stressed that the changes in the economy are of profound importance and are proceeding in a clearly defined direction. We are on the way toward an efficient and well organized economy. We will not become a wealthy society overnight, not one of the wealthy countries of the West, but we will be able to live and work normally.

There are important, collective political decisions ahead of us. Conflicting views and interests will emerge. That is natural in a democracy. However, our arguing cannot be allowed to endanger what matters most—the reorganization of the economic system. Yielding to pressure to relax the stringency measure contained in the program would cause prospects of success to recede or might even destroy them.

Wujec Examines Citizens' Foundation Finances

AU1910101590 Warsaw TRYBUNA in Polish 16 Oct 90 p 2

[Interview with Henryk Wujec, chairman of the outgoing board of the Citizens Foundation, by Ewa Rosolak; place and date not given: "Help in Installments"]

[Text] [Rosolak] The foundation has been active since February 1990. It has been said that the main reason for its creation was the requirement to regulate the finances of the local citizens committees.

[Wujec] It was rather our search to find a suitable vehicle of assistance for the local citizens committee movement which at that time did not have any source of income for its activities. In accordance with the June 1989 decision of the "Solidarity" National Executive Commission, the regional level citizens committees should have dissolved themselves soon after. Some of them did not accept this decision, continued their activity, and began to prepare for the local authority elections by taking over matters that the people's councils were not able to do. We sought a solution. We first worked on the idea of setting up an association, but abandoned this project because the structure would have been too inflexible. The only organizational form that was suitable for channeling help to the committees, allowed us to open a bank account, and keep our accounts was a foundation.

[Rosolak] In December 1989 Lech Walesa signed the trust deed, in February the foundation was registered, and you began to campaign for funds.

[Wujec] Correct. When procedural matters were still in progress we were already campaigning for funds. The source that proved of most help was the Foundation for the Development of Democracy (NED) from America. We appealed for help and presented our details of estimated expenditure for the Lech Walesa Citizens Committee and for voivodship and local citizens committees.

The NED reacted favorably to our proposals and promised financial assistance to the Lech Walesa Citizens Committee and the voivodship committees. It stipulated that the money had to be spent on the running of these bodies, for example on rent, telephone bills, and other necessary office equipment.

[Rosolak] How big was the sum received from the NED?

[Wujec] It was $338,000. This is the total sum of two promised installments, thus half of the annual sum. We received this money at the end of March 1990. The NED wanted us to divide this sum equally and give $160,000 to the Lech Walesa Citizens Committee, with the rest going to the remaining committees. After discussions with regional committees we realized that it would be more appropriate for the regional structures to receive a larger share of this money. We asked the NED whether we could reduce the part destined for the Lech Walesa Citizens Committee and the NED agreed.

[Rosolak] How was the money divided?

[Wujec] The Lech Walesa Citizens Committee and the foundation received $99,900 for their running expenses Local committees got $238,100.

[Rosolak] What were the factors behind the financial split?

[Wujec] First, we had to estimate the minimum expenditure necessary to keep the bureau functioning. This was estimated at 36,354 zlotys [Z], and each voivodship committee got this sum. The rest of the money was divided up proportionally among the committees in proportion to the population of their voivodship. Thus Katowice received Z85 million, while Chelm only got Z39 million.

[Rosolak] And this was to last for six months?

[Wujec] Yes. However these sums have had to suffice even longer because we have not yet received the installment for the second half of the year. We will only receive it when the accounts of money already received have been examined in detail. The NED auditors are here and are going through them to see whether the money was spent on running expenses as promised.

[Rosolak] What about other sources of finance?

[Wujec] During the local authority election campaign we appealed to the Polish community in the United States. Donations flowed in through such channels as the local Polish newspapers, for example NOWY DZIENNIK in New York, ZWIAZKOWIEC in Canada, Canadian Radio, and the Congress of the American Polonia. In this way we raised Z1,184,192,000. This money too was divided between the voivodship committee structures. The whole sum was divided into three parts. Each part was handed over to the voivodship network in accordance with three principles: Proportional to the population of a voivodship, proportional to the number of voivodship districts, and proportional to the number of candidates put forward by a voivodship. Again the divergences were rather wide, namely Katowice received Z22 million, whereas Kalisz only Z3 million.

[Rosolak] Has the election fund been used up?

[Wujec] There is a little remaining. However, another Z260 million flowed in during the post-election period, and this was also distributed. The committees still hold these sums, but the money can only be used for election expenses.

[Rosolak] What about presidential elections?

[Wujec] This is not allowed. The Polish community in the United States donated it for the local authority elections, but I personally doubt that it would object if the money is spent on the presidential elections.

[Rosolak] Coming back to the sources of finance. Who else has contributed?

[Wujec] There have been many donors. For example, the World Foundation of Twin Towns which donated 50 typewriters. The Polish-Swedish Business Society has donated computer equipment worth Z27 million. The GMF Foundation from the United States donated 44 grants worth $500 each. We distributed these grants to 42 local publishing enterprises which have sprung up in towns and districts. Recently our foundation and the public charity called "Solidarnosc" have received medical equipment from military stores. This was the result of an American initiative—among participants is an American charity in which Zbigniew Brzezinski and Ambassador John Shirley are active. To date we have received 19 truck loads from the FRG from areas where American military units are being withdrawn. This aid consisted of medicines, medical first-aid equipment, and some office equipment. There were many people waiting for this aid—establishments for the homeless, single mothers' homes, first aid centers, and hospitals. Receipt of this equipment and its distribution to the final destinations was a very difficult task accomplished mainly through voluntary work.

[Rosolak] You have omitted to mention the founder of the foundation. Can you tell me how much Lech Walesa contributed?

[Wujec] Walesa donated Z10,000,000.

[Rosolak] It is said that the foundation amassed a great deal of money in a very short space of time.

[Wujec] During the period 6 February to 31 July 1990, we received Z6 billion. Of this sum, Z5 billion is from money receipts and capitalization of equipment. The balance comes from donations of various material gifts and interest on our capital. This money has been spent as I described above.

[Rosolak] You have said that the money has been spent on the Lech Walesa Citizens' Committee, the voivodship committees, local authority elections, and on new local publications. What else has money been spent on?

[Wujec] Many institutions asked for help. We gave Z30 million to the Youth Labor Agency which is trying to reduce unemployment among young people; Z20 million to the Ecology and Health Foundation; and Z10 million to the Jewish Historical Institute for picture conservation works.

[Rosolak] What about political parties? Did they also apply?

[Wujec] Thankfully they did not. In any case, we took the view that we would not finance political parties because it would be very difficult to find any clear criteria. NED funds cannot be used to fund political parties. We had difficulties on this issue because in the regions views were divided.

[Rosolak] But recently a decision has been made and money can be spent on political parties.

[Wujec] Yes, but it will not be the present board that will be involved.

[Rosolak] As we are on the subject of problems, the board has been accused of mismanaging the money. Has this accusation been leveled at you personally?

[Wujec] Accusations of mismanagement? Certainly not! The issue you refer to arose in the voivodships where the citizens' committees had split into two or three separate factions. Some of these committees complained to us that they received too little money, whereas others had received more. In such cases we tried to reach consensus with the concerned parties. In some instances an amicable arrangement was not possible. Thus in principle,

we did not manage the funds ourselves. We distributed money according to the wishes of the donor. The criteria we used are very simple.

[Rosolak] This suggests that the changes pushed through by Lech Walesa in July were not connected with any financial mismanagement.

[Wujec] No. Lech Walesa came to the conclusion that he, as founder, had no influence on the way the foundation functioned and he decided to change its statute. As a founder he has every right to do this.

[Rosolak] What was the board's reaction?

[Wujec] We were not happy. The way he went about it made it clear that he did not have any confidence in the foundation's council and its board. In connection with his decision, we made it known that on 15 October we would retire from the board. We instructed Maciej Bednarkiewicz, a lawyer, to take over finances and we agreed a date for the handover with the new incoming council and founder so as to be ready to officially pass over all matters on 31 October. The board also made it known that as from 5 October it had not made any financial dispositions.

Talks Begin With Hungary on Bilateral Relations

LD1910125790 Budapest MTI in English 1055 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Warsaw, October 18 (MTI)—The Hungarian-Polish committee in charge of reviewing the obstcles in the way of developing bilateral relations held its first session in Warsaw on Thursday.

The committee was set up on the proposal [of] Prime Ministers Tadeusz Mazowiecki of Poland and Jozsef Antall of Hungary put forth in Budapest in June this year.

The negotiating delegations were headed by Jerzy Makarczyk, secretary of state at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Imre Szokai, deputy secretary of state at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Discussions were held on the state of bilateral political, legal, economic policy, cultural, scientific and mass media links, as well as on the possibilities for development.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Hungarian Note

AU1810213390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1931 GMT 18 Oct 90

["Interviews-Statements: 'Stupefaction" at a Reply That "Can't Be Understood'"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/10/1990—On October 13, Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs made known, through "ROMPRES" agency both the text of a verbal note he received from Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on October 5, and the reply of Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Traian Chebeleu, the spokesman for Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the news conference on Thursday, October 18.

He added that the October 16 issue of the "NEPSZABADSAG" newspaper said that the spokesman for Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was "stupefied" at the reply that "can't be understood."

The "stupefaction" may be caused by the fact that it has become current practice at Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to react in an unambiguous manner every time official statements are made in Hungary considered groundless and ill-willing at Bucharest, Traian Chebeleu stressed, but what can't be understood at Budapest in the Romanian party's answer is really difficult to understand.

The news from Bonn about the fresh statements Geza Jeszenszky, Hungary's minister of foreign affairs has recently made in Germany's capital are a confirmation that we have very well understood the political line of the present Hungarian Government vis-a-vis Romania. We asked for the complete texts of Geza Jeszenszky's statements and will make our opinion on them known, concluded the spokesman for Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Hungarian Position

AU2010184490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1751 GMT 20 Oct 90

["Communique of Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/10/1990—The Romanian minister of foreign affairs, Adrian Nastase was satisfied to learn the statements Mr. Geza Jeszenszky, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Hungary, made during the news conference of the Hungarian premier Joseph Antall at the Press Club in Washington on 19 October 1990, namely that Hungary will support Romania's admittance to the Council of Europe, just as of other East European countries, and that "Hungary does not want to see Romania isolated from the rest of Europe."

We welcome these statements as contributing to the improvement of the Romanian-Hungarian relations. Their implementation serves both the interests of Romania and those of Hungary and contributes to the consolidation of the CSCE process.

Defense Minister Meets Hungarian Counterpart

AU1910154490 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1400 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Colonel General Victor Stanculescu, minister of national defense of Romania, and Mr. Lajos Fur, minister of defense of the Hungarian Republic, met in Gyula at the border yesterday morning and in Arad in the afternoon. The meeting took place at the initiative of both sides and is part of the program of bilateral meetings started by the two ministers with their counterparts in neighboring countries. The new situation in Central Europe places the security policy and military relations of the European states on a new basis of understanding and bilateral cooperation, primarily between neighboring countries.

During the talks, the two sides reviewed cooperation between the two ministries and between the two Armies in past years. It was noted that within the framework of Romanian-Hungarian relations, the ties between the two Armies constituted one of the elements of trust. The two ministers briefed each other frankly about facts and the current and future concerns of the Romanian Army and the Hungarian Army. The two sides agreed that the main direction of cooperation between the two ministries and Armies must be placed on a long-term basis, this being part and parcel of relations between Romania and Hungary.

The two sides came to the conclusion that the development of relations between the two Armies can be achieved only by promoting relations between the two states; this is something that would improve mutual trust between the two countries and ensure the solution of all problems, including those of respecting individual and collective rights of ethnic minorities.

The development of relations between the two Armies cannot be separated from relations between the two countries in general. To continue improving cooperation between the two Armies, the defense ministers agreed to promote an atmosphere of mutual trust, sincerity, and correctness.

For this purpose, they agreed to sign a framework agreement on cooperation within which an important role is played by mutual information, professional meetings between leaders at various levels of the two Armies, exchange of experience and documentation about combat training of commands and troops, friendly visits between military staff and soldiers, and expanding cooperation between the military press bodies.

The need was emphasized that Romanian and Hungarian military historians should brief each other about

the results of scientific research with a view to eliminating the differences that may emerge in the interpretation of certain events in the history of the two peoples. The differences in viewpoints should be discussed and possibly eliminated.

Romania's minister of national defense, Colonel General Victor Stanculescu, laid a wreath—in the presence of the Romanian delegation—at Nicolae Balcescu's statue in Gyula, and the defense minister of the Hungarian Republic, Mr. Lajos Fur, laid a wreath—in the presence of the Hungarian delegation—at the Arad Monument to the 13 Hungarian generals who were executed by the Austro-Hungarian authorities in 1849.

The meeting took place in a candid and completely open atmosphere.

Delegate Buda Addresses IPU Conference

AU1910160790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1419 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Punta del Este (ROMPRES) 19/10/1990—Taking the floor during the meeting of interparliamentary groups of the European countries, the USA and Canada, Romanian senator Cesar Buda pointed to the significance of the major transformations occurring in central and Eastern Europe which open a new chapter in the continent's history. He underscored the role of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] in the all-European process, the responsibility incumbent on parliaments, under the new circumstances, in building the Europe of the 21st century. In that context he showed that the Parliament of the new Romania welcomed the initiative of creating the European assembly, that the Romanian delegation to Strasbourg backed that new structure as it ensures the equal participation of all the parliaments of the Helsinki Final Act signatory states in the building of a Europe of democracy, freedom and respect for human dignity.

The Romanian delegation had an interview with Mr. Gonzalo Aguirre Ramirez, vice-president of the Republic of Uruguay, chairman of the 84th Interparliamentary Union conference, who assessed that the changes occurred in Romania opened new prospects for the expansion of its political, economic and cultural relations with Uruguay. In that context he spoke for a close cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries to the end of attaining that goal in consideration of the Latin affinities between the two peoples, of their aspirations after democracy and progress.

Roman Meets With European Commission Official

AU1910203490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1745 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Prime Minister Petre Roman received, Friday, 19 October, Mr. Tom Garvey, director of the "Phare" humanitarian programmes of the European Commission, on a visit to Romania, with whom he tackled the situation of the abandoned and the handicapped children in Romania, as well as the ways the Romanian and West European authorities should act to open the emergency stage of the winter programme for improving these children's living conditions.

The talks also centered on the political and economic situation of Romania. The Romanian side expressed the determination of the Romanian Government to speed up the reform programmes and underlined this country's acute need for support from the European Community, especially through experts and technical assistance meant to improve reform policies.

Chebeleu on EEC, Balkan Meeting, Iran Issue

AU1910160690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1419 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Informing those present that the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of the Common Market countries in Luxembourg also includes the signing of the trade and economic cooperation agreement between Romania and the European Economic Community, Mr. Traian Chebeleu assessed it as a highly significant political act. Through its significance and content that accord is meant to effectively contribute to the positive evolution of the commercial exchanges between Romania and the Common Market and stimulate cooperation in various domains of joint interest.

In another string of ideas he said that the forthcoming conference of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries due in Tirana is to take place at a very special moment of contemporary history which favours the redimensioning of inter-Balkan cooperation. He noted that the economic, technical, scientific, cultural cooperation, in Europe and in the Balkans in particular, serves the interests of all Balkan countries.

Through its conclusions and results the Tirana conference can open the path to a practical stage of working out and implementing projects and programmes of many-sided cooperation in areas of common interest, Mr. Chebeleu said.

As for the Romanian experts still in Iraq, Mr. Traian Chebeleu informed that preparations were under way for their repatriation (489 people), via Turkey, starting next week.

The Romanian Government works consistently for the strict observance of the Security Council resolutions concerning the economic embargo on Iraq.

Informing that the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry has repeatedly conveyed to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs its indignation in connection with what it called "the defamatory campaign" against Iran in "ROMANIA LIBERA" daily which took up again the

question of the alleged Iranian terrorists and the gold Ceausescu deposited in Iran, Mr. Traian Chebeleu reiterated the stand the Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry took on 4 October when the ministry expressed its belief that the Romanian mass media, their leading bodies would pay due attention when publishing news and information items making sure that they were checked or supplied by authorized sources to avoid bringing prejudices to Romania's relations with other countries, Iran in particular.

Cultural Agreement Initialed With Germany

AU1910203790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1708 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—An agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of Germany was initialed in Bucharest on October 19. It provides for the creation of cultural and information centres on a reciprocity basis.

The agreement is intended to develop and expand bilateral relations, to contribute to better mutual knowledge of the two countries' culture an spirituality and to an understanding of realities and achievements in Romania and Germany at present.

Venezuelan Trade Delegation Pays Visit

Roman Meets Delegation

AU1910142790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1018 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Thursday afternoon Romania's Prime Minister Petre Roman received a delegation from Venezuela headed by Mrs. Aida Lamas, ambassador, director-general of the Trade Institute of Venezuela, now in Bucharest on the seventh session of the joint Romanian-Venezuelan Governmental Commission of Economic and Technical-Scientific Collaboration. Analysis was made of the stage of the economic relations between Romania and Venezuela, stressing that petrochemistry, tourism and other fields would contribute to the development of the economic relations between the two countries in the mutual interest.

On the occasion, Premier Roman was invited to pay a visit to Venezuela, the date being established diplomatically.

Joint Commission Session Held

AU1910213290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2002 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—The joint Romanian-Venezuelan Governmental Economic, Technical and Scientific Commission concluded its seventh session Friday, 19 October. The two delegations, headed by Valentin Ionita, secretary of state, chief of the chemical and petrochemical industries department, for the Romanian side and Mrs. Aida Josefina Lamas director general of Venezuela's Ministry of Foreign Trade, for the Venezuelan side examined the present stage of the bilateral economic relations, the new prospects for developing joint cooperation in fields of mutual interest, such as petrochemistry, machine-building, rail-roads, agriculture, tourism and others, the expansion and diversification of commercial exchanges on mutually beneficial bases in the present conditions of Romania's transition to a market economy, widening cooperation and exchanges between private Romanian and Venezuelan enterprises.

At the end of the session, the heads of the two delegations signed the protocol of the session.

Attending the talks and the protocol signing ceremony was Mr. Milos Alkalay Mirkovich, Venezuela's ambassador to Bucharest.

Foreign Minister's Visit to PRC Reviewed

AU1910160990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1317 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—As we have announced, Romania's foreign affairs minister, Adrian Nastase, paid an official visit to China at the invitation of his counterpart, Qian Qichen.

The two foreign ministers discussed in depth of the bilateral relationship, and exchanged views on international matters and on the current situation in the two countries.

The exchange of views evinced the determination of the governments of Romania and China to take action for the development and diversification of the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The two ministers concentrated on specific actions the implementation of which is expected to give the Romanian-Chinese relations dynamism and a durable future. Stress was laid in context on the great importance of the official visit to China early next year of Romania's President Ion Iliescu. The foreign affairs minister of Romania extended an official invitation to the Chinese foreign minister who accepted it. Exchanges on a parliamentary and governmental line in the economy, science, culture, sports, and tourism were shown to be useful and their expansion was supported by both sides. Further systematic consultations between the two foreign ministries were agreed upon.

The great significance of expanding trade and economic cooperation between Romania and China was stressed by the two ministers who also reviewed the bilateral relations on consular matters, in education, culture, science, tourism, sports, and agreed to support their growth.

On current international questions, the two ministers stressed the unconditional respect for the principles of

international law in interstate relation is required, as well as a broad cooperation among all the nations of the world.

The two ministers agreed that the representatives of Romania and China should step up their cooperation at the U.N. and other international bodies and organisms.

All the matters that were covered by the talks were recorded in an aide-memoire the text of which was agreed upon. The two ministers expressed their conviction that the implementation of the planned actions on the agenda would make an outstanding contribution to the deepening and diversification of the Romanian-Chinese friendship and cooperation.

Israeli Businessmen Seek Cooperation With Cluj

AU1910142190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1025 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—A delegation of the Chamber of Commerce in Beer-Sheva and Negev (Israel) headed by Mr. Kalman Porat is paying a visit to Cluj-Napoca. The Israeli delegation's aim is to find out the possibilities of cooperation between the companies represented and the Cluj enterprises in tourism, light, food and wood processing industries. The first talks have already been held and concrete actions are to begin soon.

Interior Minister Meets International Lawyers

AU1810144090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0919 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 18/10/1990—The Press Office of the Ministry of the Interior sent the ROMPRES news agency the following communique:

Mr. Doru-Viorel Ursu, minister of the interior, met with a delegation of the International Union of Lawyers, headed by Mr. Juan Antonio Cremades, president of the union.

The president of the International Union of Lawyers expressed his satisfaction in connection with that meeting and made a survey of that organism's aims.

In his turn, Mr. Doru-Viorel Ursu appreciated the opportunity and utility of such meetings and presented the Interior Ministry's concerns for the improvement and adapting of the organisational structures, of the legal framework to the changes taking place in the Romanian society so that the Ministry of the Interior become a real fundamental institution of the state of law, its legitimate force in the defence of public order, of citizens' rights and freedoms.

Present at the meeting, Messrs. Victor Anagnoste, president of the Romanian Union of Lawyers, and Nicolae Cerveni, president of the Bucharest Bar Association, welcomed the interest of the Ministry of the Interior in the human rights and expressed their wish that interviews be held periodically between representatives of Romanian lawyers and the Interior Ministry leadership.

Report on 18 Oct Joint Parliament Session

AU1810211490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1946 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/10/1990—Thursday morning, 18 October, the Senate and the Assembly of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament resumed their proceedings in a joint session.

They heard a report by Prime Minister Petre Roman on progress in the economic reform and on the necessity of speeding it up.

The prime minister's report marks 100 days since the nomination of the government reflecting the parliamentary majority of the National Salvation Front.

After the report, following a proposal made by Senate President Alexandru Barladeanu, Parliament decided to continue the debates interrupted last week, on the government's report made by Minister Anton Vatasescu on the winter supplies of electricity, fuels and food stuffs to the population and to put off discussions on the premier's report to next week.

In their addresses, the parliamentarians noted that the government's report failed to make reference to a number of sectors that may contribute to the maintenance of an acceptable living standard, such as medical care and housing. They were critical of the fact that catering of staple food for winter provisions does not rely on home resources which, though the agricultural year has been rather droughty, could cover, from either state farms or private producers, the basic needs of the population. Import of eatables can only be a transitory solution betraying the government's incapability to take such measures that may stir the economy from its present deadlock. Food imports will further burden the country's budget, so as other unreasonable imports, like Airbus planes, will worsen the country's balance of payments.

Stress was laid on stepping up the economic reform either through privatisation of production sectors or through setting up credible commercial societies, while a number of speakers dwelt on the importance of price liberalisation. Some of them termed the so-far privatisation process as completely outdated and favouring overnight fortune-making without being beneficial to economy.

Critical remarks could be heard on the still flourishing bureaucracy which bogs reforms and fosters corruption and infractions of the law, all together undermining the economy.

Demonstrators Enter Parliament To See Roman

AU1810135790 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1100 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] This morning a group of demonstrators—rejected candidates at the admittance examination for higher education, that is the Faculty of Medicine in Craiova—demonstrated in front of the Palace Hall, where the Parliament was holding a plenary session. The demonstrators demanded additional places for the Faculty of Medicine in Craiova apart from the 73 places granted by the Ministry of Education for rejected candidates in 1989.

A delegation of five people entered the Place Hall to discuss with Prime Minister Petre Roman possibilities to solve this situation.

At approximately 0915 GMT the demonstrators left for the government headquarters to protest. At this time, there are only a few scores of people in Victory Square carrying placards demanding a dialogue with the prime minister.

Leaders' Comments on Roman's Parliament Report

Iliescu Responds to Program

AU1910212990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2015 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—It is only now that we approach the fundamental problem of the economic reform, which is the most difficult problem that calls for efforts from everyone to be able to cope with the difficulties to emerge in the transition process, Mr. Ion Iliescu, president of Romania, said in response to a question referring to the prime minister's report to the Parliament on Thursday asked by a "ROMPRES" writer.

Besides the difficult inheritance from the past, the transition process is a source of further disfunctions and calls for the people's adaptation to the new state of affairs. We must be aware of all this, the president said, and it is proper that we should talk this matters over in an open manner. That is why, I asked the prime minister to give a true picture of the existing situation, to outline the legislative programme to follow and the practical measures to implement it, along with the need to approach it with an open heart by mobilizing the forces of our society.

I thought it useful, the president said, that a balance sheet of the achievements so far in the promotion of the elements of the reform should be set forth and that the government's intention in the period ahead should be made clear so that a comprehensive picture of what lies ahead may be outlined and the citizens may know what to expect.

Referring to the process of adopting new laws, the president said it would have been more practical to have had a one-chamber Parliament since, he said, the two-chamber system is a system of greater inertia and that is why the process of elaborating the laws takes so long. But we wanted to keep up with the modern world and have a two-chamber parliament, the president also said.

Campeanu, Ratiu Support Reform

AU1910202390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1810 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Referring to the government programme Prime Minister Petre Roman recently submitted to the Romanian Parliament, Mr. Radu Campeanu, chairman of the National Liberal Party, vice-president of the Senate, once again stated for a stepped-up reform, which, he said, was indispensable, in an interview with the newspaper "ROMANIA LIBERA." Showing that "the land law adopted with great delay," which "was a mistake, Mr. Campeanu opined that the law of commercial companies contained a number of dispositions which run counter to the spirit of liberalization the prime minister had mentioned. So, for instance, he showed, Article 23 creates difficulties as concerns the registry of those companies with the courts of law. As for the creation of the agency to control, survey and guide foreign companies, Mr. Campeanu said that, in the opinion of the Liberal Party, that was a tactical mistake as it would act as a brake to foreign investment. In his turn, Mr. Ion Ratiu, deputy in Romania's Parliament and representative of the Parliamentary Group of the Christian and Democratic National Peasant Party, said: "From the very beginning I suggested a deep-going, radical reform of the whole Romanian economic establishment." What the government programme suggests, he said, amounts to the same thing and, in this respect, "I am contented." Ion Ratiu also added: "the encouragement of private initiative and the unfettering of the people's enterprising spirit are the corner stones of the whole programme, which can therefore yield positive results."

PNT-cd Appeals to Youth Not To Emigrate

AU1810221490 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 9 Oct 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Appeal to Romanian Youth" by the Youth Organization of the National Peasants Christian Democratic Party]

[Text] Recently the government denied the news according to which 800,000 Romanian citizens have left the country this year. Even if this figure is exaggerated, it should be cause for concern, even more so since a major part of the emigrants are young intellectuals. The reasons, discussed during a news conference by the state secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are of a political, social, and economic nature: the disillusionment that followed the enthusiasm during the revolution, untruth and violence raised to the level of state policy, chaos in the Romanian economy, and an insecure

present and future marked by a lack of jobs and wages which borders on the poverty line.

We know that love for the country is felt by each individual wherever he may be. The Youth Organization of the National Peasants (Christian Democratic) Party [PNT-cd] launches an appeal to all young people—and not only to them—who, prompted by disappointment, fear, or worry about tomorrow, are thinking of going into self-imposed exile. Today, when Romania is moving in the direction of a new totalitarian regime, each one of us is needed more than ever before. The solution of emigrating—sometimes a happy solution for a given individual—is not viable and is destructive for our society. Each emigre separately contributes to weakening the Romanian resistance.

We have to stay in the country and, siding with the ideals of all those who desire the well-being of Romanian society, we have to believe in the future of this country, which God has not yet turned His back upon.

PNT-cd Youth Organization

PNT-cd Issues Statement on Foreign Policy

AU1910092690 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 10 Oct 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Main Points of the Foreign Policy of the National Peasants Christian Democratic Party"]

[Text] The great changes which are taking place in the world as a result of the victory of Western parliamentary democracy and the irreversible bankruptcy of totalitarian communism, against which the National Peasants Christian Democratic Party [PNT-cd] has always struggled as its main opponent and main victim, confirm the correctness of the PNT-cd's traditional line and show that the party is an integral part of European democracy.

1. In the area of foreign policy, the PNT-cd pursues the line of guaranteeing the Romanian people's security, promoting foreign economic relations which will contribute to overcoming the difficult economic situation inherited from the totalitarian regime, and ensuring an exchange of cultural values to publicize the Romanian people's genuine artistic creations and enrich Romanian culture.

Being a Christian and democratic party, the PNT-cd will struggle to ensure close ties with the Christian democratic parties in Europe and throughout the world.

2. The PNT-cd is aware that in today's world interdependence is, and in particular will continue to be, so profound that Romania can guarantee its security only on the basis of positive neighborly relations with the countries surrounding it: Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Hungary, the CSFR, and Poland, as well as the other European countries, on whose security our people's security also depends. Our relations with such European countries as France, Germany, England, and Italy will also be promoted for the simple reason that the Romanian people are linked to these countries through their history, language, culture, and tradition. Continuing the positive relations with the peoples of the USSR in the way Nicolae Titulescu—a noteworthy member of the PNT-cd from the beginning of 1934—viewed and established them, the PNT-cd will develop relations with our neighbor in the East. It will act in such a way that Europe resumes the role in the world to which it is entitled from a historic, economic, and political point of view. It will support initiatives aimed at European political, economic, and cultural unity. In this sense, the PNT-cd will act with determination to create conditions to strengthen Romania within the European Economic Community.

The PNT-cd supports the free movement of people across national borders, which are becoming increasingly open and symbolic, because borders are a factor which not only separates European peoples, but also unifies these peoples at all levels.

3. The PNT-cd supports the implementation of general disarmament, as it is a principle of vital importance for world peace and is unanimously accepted.

4. The foreign relations promoted by the PNT-cd are based on the generally recognized principles of international law contained in the UN Charter and the CSCE Helsinki Final Act, and particularly on the principle of territorial integrity and respect for human rights and the rights of minorities as stipulated in the aforementioned documents and in the laws of the developed democratic states.

Guaranteeing the observance of human rights will constitute a basic element of PNT-cd policy.

5. Given the special security relations of the United States and Canada with Europe and the contribution of those countries to establishing democracy in Eastern Europe, the PNT-cd attaches particular importance to relations with those two states.

6. In connection with the other centers of power in the world, such as Japan, China, and the Latin American countries, with which we are linked by language and cultural traditions—in fact, all states on the globe—the PNT-cd will promote mutually advantageous cooperation with all those states to avoid conflicts and solve existing ones by peaceful means, and to guarantee world security and the democratic development of the world.

7. In the spirit of Christian democracy and the positive tradition of the Romanian state, the PNT-cd will promote a candid foreign policy and oppose behind-the-scenes and secret deals concluded without the agreement of the people concerned.

8. Because the economic situation of Romania is extremely serious and because economic factors will continue to play a particular role in the political and social life of the Romanian people, the PNT-cd will

make an effort to develop relations in this field with those democratic states that will ensure the introduction in our country—as rapidly as possible—of advanced technologies and productive capital investments in order to facilitate the democratization and privatization process and our transition to the market economy under the best of conditions and with the least negative consequences for our society.

9. The PNT-cd views the Romanian population in Bessarabia and North Bukovina as part of the Romanian people, because they have the same Christian creed, the same history, the same language, and the same culture. This is an undeniable historical truth and the trend of developments in Bessarabia and North Bukovina will be the one that naturally characterizes peoples of the same origin. The extraordinary efforts of the Romanian population in Bessarabia and North Bukovina to preserve their national and political identity against Mr. Gorbachev's perestroyka is an exceptionally encouraging sign which permits the continuation of the aforementioned developments bringing the populations on both sides of the Prut spiritually and culturally closer together.

10. The agreements reached through the use or threat of force, whereby Romanian territories were ceded, are null and void both under the law in force at that time (1940), under the Atlantic Charter—the law in force in our time—and especially under the provisions of the UN Charter and other subsequent UN documents on the unacceptability of the use or threat of force in interstate relations.

11. The PNT-cd believes that Romanian emigres, irrespective of their creed or ethnic origin, are a link with Romania, which it will firmly stimulate at all levels. These emigres have played a great role in preserving the democratic ideals of the Romanian people and in the overthrow of the dictatorship.

12. The PNT-cd will pay particular attention to developing relations with the other Christian democratic parties in Europe and throughout the world, and—following this line—with the World Union of Christian Democratic Parties, the European Union of Christian Democratic Parties, and with people's parties and their international organizations. The aim of such relations is to strengthen the cultural and Christian ties of the PNT-cd and obtain aid at the moral, political, and technical levels, given the fact that the PNT-cd finds itself at the beginning of a road after half a century of terror and vacuum in the spiritual and democratic life in Romania.

13. Taking into account the common Christian tradition of all peoples in Europe and bearing in mind the exceptional value of these spiritual precepts aimed at conciliation and rapprochement between individuals and peoples, the PNT-cd believes that a future united Europe cannot be conceived of other than on the solid basis of Christian ethics.

14. Fully aware of the serious deterioration of the environment throughout the world, the PNT-cd adheres to modern ecological principles, and struggles to implement them. This policy can be applied only on the basis of effective and well-intended cooperation between neighboring countries, those in the same geographical area, and even among all states in the world, because this is a problem of a global nature.

PNT-cd Holds Conference on Political Activity

AU1910203190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1805 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Further annual county conferences of the Christian and Democratic National Peasants Party (NPCDP) [PNT-cd] are held this month. These conferences, which started in September, concentrate on organizational matters and on questions related to an improved political activity on a local plane, by promoting new, competent young cadres included.

The members and the sympathizers of this opposition democratic party stated for a growing contribution to the removal of communist structures and mentalities and for Romania's placing among European democracies, in line with the experience it acquired in the inter-war period. The fact is noteworthy that diplomat Nicolae Titulescu (1882-1941), one of the people responsible for the exceptional prestige Romania enjoyed in that period, was one of the outstanding members of the NPP [PNT-cd].

The annual county conferences are also aimed at preparing the national congress of that party.

PNL, Socialist Liberal Parties Merge

AU1910142090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1021 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—The National Liberal Party's (NLP) [PNL] Headquarters in Bucharest hosted the ceremony of that party's merging with Socialist Liberal Party. Referring to the significance of the moment, the National Liberal Party's president, Radu Campeanu, underscored that this new unity of political forces was meant to strengthen the firm and constructive opposition in Romania's political life and thus to contribute to the democratic development of the Romanian society.

The president of the Socialist Liberal Party, Niculae Cerveni, appointed vice-president of the new party, emphasised the important role National Liberal Party was to play in the country's life.

PNL Opposes Exceptional Powers for Government

AU1910142690 Buchares ROMPRES in English 1002 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—The National Liberal Party (NLP) [PNL]—the young wing released a

communique concerning the report read by Premier Petre Roman on Thursday, 18 October 1990, before Parliament speaking categorically against the granting of exceptional powers to Romania's Government as regards the application of normative acts before being passed by Parliament. The party is of the opinion that this measure flagrantly runs counter to the principle of separation of powers in state. But assessing as correct and justified the consideration that the law enacting process is too slow which bears on the pace of reforms and that the Senate and the Assembly of Deputies actually have similar powers the party suggests that the Constituent Assembly should operate also as a unicameral parliament.

Iliescu Receives Evangelical Churchmen

AU2010173290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1559 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/10/1990—Our attitude vis-a-vis the church is not circumstantial but in principle, reflecting the wish to build an authentic democracy. The freedom of minority groups on all planes also extends to religion, stressed President Ion Iliescu of Romania during the meeting he had on Saturday with a delegation of the Congress of the Evangelical Alliance of Romania, now under way in Bucharest.

The delegation also included, as invited guests of the congress, representatives and faithfuls of churches from abroad.

The guests availed themselves of that opportunity to make assessments of the attitude of the Romanian authorities and state as regards the freedom of consciousness, the guarantee for a free exercise of religious beliefs of all citizens, in the interest of the churches and faithfuls they represent. The speakers stressed the interest Romania enjoys in their communities, their determination to further grant a moral and material support to Romania in this transition period when the bases of an authentic democratic society are being laid. The representatives of the Evangelical Alliance of Romania thanked on behalf of their faithfuls for the support the Romanian state had granted them to open and build new places of worship, to change the theological education system for the training of priests.

Mr. Ion Iliescu welcomed the foreign guests to the Congress of the Evangelical Alliance of Romania and spoke about the role the Church can play in the development of society, in the ensurance of the moral and spiritual structure and cohesion of our people.

Government Session on Foreign Trade, Tourism

AU1910203390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1740 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Friday, 19 October, the Romanian Government in its weekly meeting, debated a report on the foreign-trade activities from 1 January to 30 September 1990, the 1990/1992 programme for the modernisation and development of tourism in Romania, as well as bills submitted to the executive for remarks and proposals.

Fota Issues Statement on Foreign Trade Activity

AU1910203690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1721 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—At the end of a government meeting on Friday, when a report on foreign-trade activities and the programme to update and develop tourism were presented, Mr. Constantin Fota, minister of trade and tourism, told a "ROMPRES" writer: "Foreign trade activities will continue to develop by increasing both exports and imports. The trade balance in hard-currency was active in September. However, that was a result of carefully oriented efforts on the part of economic agents rather than of a marked growth of exports, which is desirable. This month, exports in hard currency stand at more than 300 million and imports have hit almost the same mark. Apparently, foreign-trade activities this month will be better than September's. Furthermore, I could note delays in deliveries to various countries, to East-European ones in the first place, which is not encouraging at all as a number of imports which are essential for both the economy and the population such as crude, gas, electric power are conditional upon those deliveries. Moreover, the need was stressed for those imports to be stimulated.

"At the same time, I could note that activities in the Bucharest International Fair were vigorous, many contracts being concluded. Export contracts to East-European countries worth 170 million roubles and export contracts in hard currency amounting to more than 221 million dollars have already been concluded.

"According to the new attributions of the ministries, we worked out a strategy for the updating and development of tourist activities in this country. In consideration of the existing material base and the need to develop it by adding new facilities we wish to fulfil all our plans in cooperation with foreign companies. I should like to point out that foreign companies' interest in tourist activities in Romania is tremendous now after commercial companies have been created in tourism and they can conclude joint ventures. Therefore, we may start finalizing ventures and we will soon inform public opinion in this country of some of the major contracts to be fulfilled."

Government Resolution on Price Liberalization

AU1910143290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1034 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Romania's Government relersed a resolution on Thursday 18 October on price liberalization and social safety measures according to which all autonomous units and commercial societies with state capital should set prices

and tariffs on the basis of the concerted demand-and-offer action. In the case of products and services temporarily subsidised by the state, prices and tariffs are set by the government on the basis of proposals made by the Ministry of Finance. The government also sets the prices and tariffs for certain basic resources and services of strategic importance for the national economy and the population's standard of living.

The free price formation on the basis of demand and offer shall be made by free and fair competition, speculative and monopoly prices being forbidden, the resolutions reads.

The resolution stipulates a modality of setting wholesale prices for indigenous products as well as for imported ones function of exchange rate, and the obligation of economic agents to take into consideration in price formation the 20 percent social security contribution, except the cases when it was decided that that contribution should be higher.

As for retail prices and the social safety measures the resolution shows the modality of setting the distribution quotas. In keeping with the population social safety programme the resolution stipulates that the prices for electricity, thermal energy, rents for dwellings, heating and cooking fuel, transport fares are to remain unchanged.

Rises in the prices of basic food stuffs are compensated by fixed monthly amounts for each person paid by the units where the respective persons work. Scholarships, food allowances paid from state budget are to increase accordingly.

The resolution stipulates that starting 1 November 1990 the exchange rate of the U.S. Dollar and of the transferable rouble is of 35 lei, a rate which modifies weekly function of exchange rates in the international market. Starting 1 January 1991 the convertibility of the leu is to be gradually introduced in hard-currency sales at auction organized by Romania's National Bank to buy and sell hard currency to economic agents, artificial persons and Romanian citizens.

The resolution also stipulates firm measures to check price and tariff formation and the observance of legal provisions.

Trade Unions Hold Provisional National Convention

AU1910203890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1707 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Members and the leaders of seven central trade unions in Romania, as well as representatives of other legally-created trade unions, held on Friday the first session of a provisional national convention which centered on the joint administration of Romania.

The aim of the meeting of the representatives of the seven central trade unions is to find a way to jointly administer the huge wealth—of the order of billions—of the former General Trade Union Confederation of Romania, as Mr. Marian Tinica, leader of the "Hercules" National Confederation, said.

Oltcit Company Protests Statement on Closure

AU1910202890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1750 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—The "Oltcit" joint company based at Craiova sent an appeal to the government and the prime minister in protest to a government statement broadcast over the radio and television [that the car factory would be sold] which caused great confusion at the works and among its domestic suppliers, and incurred considerable moral and material damage through the abstention of potential partners with which contracts were expected to be concluded at the Bucharest International Trade Fair.

The administrative leadership of the works urges the government to analyse again the position of the Oltcit Craiova joint company, the conditions in which it has carried on its activity, as well as the solutions and actions that must be taken to increase production and make profits.

We require this, the appeal says, because the Oltcit industrial complex is technically and technologically above the average automobile manufacturing units in this country, its cars are in high demand on the foreign and home markets, which would translate into the factory's utilization at capacity and into commodities of great importance for the national economy brought into the country in exchange for cars.

Considering that the works cannot increase its production and make a profit, at least during the transition period when the economy is restructured, without government material and financial assistance, the administrative management of Oltcit says it disagrees with both the substance and the terms of the petition sent to the prime minister by the Oltcit union chairman on 20 September 1990.

Thousands Hold Demonstration in Timisoara

AU1910213490 Paris AFP in English 1943 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, Oct 19 (AFP)—Thousands of people demonstrated in Timisoara, western Romania, on Friday [19 October] to press their demands for "the truth" about formerly repressive government agencies, several sources said here.

They said the demonstrators shouted anti-communist and anti- government slogans such as "Down with (President Ion) Iliescu".

The demonstration was called by the Timisoara Society, which was founded in January by demonstrators who took part in the December uprising in the region, which played a leading part in ousting the regime of Nicolae Ceausescu.

Among the protesters was student leader Marian Munteanu, who was beaten up by pro-government miners during anti-government demonstrators in June, arrested then released in August.

The news agency ROMPRES said Mr. Munteanu accused the government of delaying an investigation into the beatings of protesters on that occasion, and denounced "economic and social" troubles of Romanians.

Some speakers accused the authorities of covering up the actions of "Ceausescu's special forces" during the December uprising—a particular reference to the Securitate political police.

Romanian Radio quoted them as proposing a citizen's forum to be called the "Timisoara alternative", with the aim of bringing to justice all those involved in repression duruing the December uprising.

Demand Truth About 13-15 June

AU1910212090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2019 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—On Friday, October 19, a meeting on "the truth an essential element of democracy. The Securitate before and after December 22. Who shot at the people after December 22?" Was held in the Unirea Square in Timisoara on Friday, October 19. The meeting was organized by the "Timisoara" Society.

The demonstrators chanted anti-communist and anti-government slogans. The speakers, including Mr. Cornel Nistorescu and Mr. Marian Munteanu, criticized the current state leadership and the government for delaying the inquiry into the June 13-15 Events, for the economic and social difficulties in the country.

A protest to the government against the detention conditions for the people arrested in February and over June 13-15 was read on behalf of the "Timisoara" Society.

Journalists Protest Attempt To 'Subordinate' Press

AU1910142290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1031 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Romania's Society of Journalists—the Press Unions Federation—"notes the growing concerted action to subordinate the press as an institution, both indirectly through economic means, and directly by authoritative measures among which the attempts of the local administration to take over or dissolve county publications, the take-over of titles of independent publications on the structure of the ex-"SCINTEIA" Publishing House," it says in a protest sent to the press.

Assessing the measure as totalitarian in essence, and aimed at annihilating the independent economic and publishing status of the publications born in the heat of the December events, the statement rejects as unacceptable the attempt to put under state economic control and to subordinate politically these press means which are the fruit of private initiative (of their editors) and with economic means derived from their own activity.

The government and Parliament are urged to "renounce the measures that can be assessed as interference in the activity of the independent press. On that line, the decision to set up the National Publishing House as publisher of independent publications should be rescinded forthrightly."

The protest is signed by Marian Grigore, vice president of Romania's Society of Journalists.

Former Securitate Chief Vlad's Trial Continues

AU1910141890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1023 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—The inconsistency of the indictment in the trial of Reserve General Iulian Vlad, former head of the State Security Department, charged for complicity in genocide, was the reason for the prosecution's request for more evidence to support the defendant's involvement in that crime. The request was submitted on Thursday to the Supreme Court—the Military Division—where the trial is taking place.

At the end of the hearing, the court postponed to Friday the decision whether to give course to the prosecution's request in which it was joined by the defense, or to return the case to complete penal investigation. Under the circumstances, the defense asked that the defendant be released and further tried in freedom. The court rejected the request.

The court has instead agreed to release the deposit of 31,000 lei in the savings bank under the defendant's name, to be used by his wife.

The request to connect the case with those concerning the charge of illegal arrest against the same Iulian Vlad was rejected.

Case Returned to Prosecutor's Office

AU1910213090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2005 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—After three weeks of hearings and cross-examinations held in two rounds, during which about forty witnesses were heard, the Military Section on Friday, October 19, of the Supreme Court of Justice decided, based on the Code of

Criminal Procedures, to turn back the case of retired Colonel-General Iulian Vlad, former head of the State's Security Department, to the Military Prosecution Direction to complete the penal inquiry.

The decision is based on the lack of substance of the indictment proved by the evidence, considering that all the prosecution witnesses denied Iulian Vlad's accusation of abetting genocide. On the contrary, the prosecution and the defence witnesses said in their testimonies that by the way he had behaved and acted over December 17-22, General Vlad had disobeyed the orders given by Nicolae Ceausescu for the revolution to be repressed and had asked the bodies he was in charge of not to fire and to restrain from violence against the demonstrators.

Based uniquely on the short-hand minutes of the Executive Political Committee's meeting on December 17 that was proved not to be the original one but a build-up and on those of the December 22 meeting, the indictment was not able to convince anybody of the guilt of the defendant, that would consist in his having ordered fire against the demonstrators. Right after the meetings mentioned above. Relevant in this respect is Iulian Vlad's talk with Silviu Curticeanu after the December 17 meeting when the former said: "I can't give the order to shoot at the population."

The Supreme Court also decided that Iulian Vlad's preventive custody be maintained and set ten days as a time limit for an appeal.

Former PEC Member Totu To Be Heard in Court

AU1810143990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0927 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 18/10/1990—On Thursday, the Bucharest Military Tribunal will hear defendant Ioan Totu, one of the former Executive Political Committee [PEC] members on trial on the charge of genocide.

The Department of Military Prosecutor's Offices has retained the charge that the defendant, by his participation in the December 17 and 22, 1989 PEC meetings, tacitly agreed with the armed repression of the revolution.

According to the indictment, during the penal investigations the defendant made untrue statements in an attempt to decline his own responsibility for those crimes. He said the December 17 meeting had been called on in order to dismiss the national defence and the interior ministers as well as the head of the State Security Department, while their executive functions were to be taken over by the dictator himself. He said no decision about a settlement of the Timisoara situation had been made on that occasion.

Referring to the teleconference held on the same day, shortly after the conclusion of the meeting, he said he had not understood from the dialogue between Ceausescu and the former RCP [Romanian Communist Party] Central Committee secretary, Ion Coman, what the situation was in Timisoara. Concerning the December 22 meeting, the defendant opined that "Ceausescu's decision to fight had been pointless, since the mass of demonstrators had gained key positions and the party Central Committee Headquarters had already been surrounded by people."

The indictment considered the defendant's attitude had been lacking in sincerity during the penal investigations, concluding that his contradictory statements proved he had correctly understood the purpose of the meetings he had taken part in and had tacitly agreed with Ceausescu's order for a bloody repression of the December revolution. Ioan Totu, 59, graduated from the "V.I. Lenin" Economic Science and Planning Institute of Bucharest. He was a university teacher and director of the Economic Science Institute. He was deputy prime minister of the government, foreign minister, chairman of the state planning committee.

Pleads Not Guilty; Trial Continues

AU1910142490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1040 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 19/10/1990—In the trial of the former members of the Executive Political Committee [PEC] of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party] who are charged with genocide, defendant Ioan Totu was heard on Thursday.

Like other defendants before him, he pleaded not guilty, pointing out that he did not agree with the indictment. "There is no document, no fact, no gesture to confirm the charges against me" he said.

Recounting the proceedings of the December 17, 1989, Executive Political Committee meeting, when the participants tacitly agreed to the armed repression ordered by Ceausescu against the Timisoara revolution, the defendant said the conclusion was unjust, because the decision had already been made by the dictator and it had not been submitted to that supreme political organism for approval.

Ceausescu's harsh criticism of the three Army, police and Securitate heads, for failing to carry out his orders, proved that he had decided by himself upon the way to repress the revolution and was actually asking the Executive Political Committee to agree only to the dismissal of the three ministers.

Regarding the December 22 meeting of the Executive Political Committee, when the revolution was under way in the capital, a fact which made Ceausescu demand the Executive Political Committee members' pledge to fight to the bitter end, defendant Ioan Totu said he had taken no stand, pointing out that his silence can by no means be taken for agreement.

In fact, he said, the question "I want you to come up and say who agrees to fight and who has sided with the enemy" was so asked that it elicited either an explicit answer or silence.

Asked about his moral valuation of such an attitude and whether it was in keeping with the oath he had taken to serve the Romanian people, the defendant protested that the question was tendentious. "We all regret what happened, one way or another, but I cannot feel guilty over a consent I didn't give."

Increased Violence Against Romanies Causes Concern

AU1810144290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1029 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 18/10/1990—The Romanies' organisations gathered in the Romanies' Ethnical Federation note with worry the increasing cases of violence against Romanies. Starting January, reads a press statement sent to the ROMPRES news agency, almost every month a Romanies' collectivity was the target of pressures in various localities in the country. The statement appeals to the authorities to intervene to prevent and put an end to the conflicts and violence against Romanies. It also made an appeal to the Senate and the Assembly of Deputies to set up a commission to inquire into the cases of violence and aggression against Romanies' collectivities all over the country. At the same time, it appeals to the governmental and non-governmental organisations, the Romanies' organisations included, to support the activity of a mission of material and humanitarian aid for the families without homes and private goods.

Steps Taken To Help Homeless, Handicapped

AU1910203290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1726 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—The Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection issued a communique showing that, since the December 1989 revolution, the Romanian authorities have taken a number of steps to relieve the painful situation of homeless children and of the handicapped inherited from the Ceausescu regime. To this effect, an additional 196.2 million lei have been allocated to hire the necessary personnel and to add to the daily food allowances. Food allocations for children and the handicapped in public care institutions were increased by 100 percent as against 1989. As many as 35.7 million lei were earmarked in the first quarter of 1990 as additional funds for urgent investment, repairing, maintenance and sanitation works and another 17 million lei will follow by the end of the year.

By governmental decree, the sightless have been granted a number of rights covering their length of service, retirement rights, an additional six-workday leave, free transport and medical assistance, and lodging and fiscal facilities.

The situation of the handicapped children in public institutions has been largely eased by the aid from especially Western European governments and non-governmental institutions which forwarded to Romania food, medicines and clothing.

Poll on President, Foreign Ties, World Issues

AU1910202590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1710 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/10/1990—Eighty-six percent of the population thinks the country's president should be elected by universal vote, while eleven percent assign this duty to Parliament, says an opinion poll conducted by a Romanian specialised institute on a nationally representative 2,508 sample batch.

Most of them consider the president is the mandatory of as much power as he should have, 30 percent think he has too little power and 12 percent too much.

Most of them see him as sincere (52 percent), a smaller share say he is not (25 percent). Fifty-eight percent of the persons polled opine that most of the citizens trust Mr. Iliescu, while 26 percent think otherwise.

An overwhelming majority consider his TV appearances as useful (88 percent), while a petty minority (five percent) as useless. Fifty-nine percent request his TV appearance once a month, others less frequently. Thirty-nine percent agree that in his telecast speeches, the president avoids "the real problems of the country," while 43 percent reject this assertion and 18 percent abstain.

The poll gives interesting data on people's attitude to Romania's foreign relations and to certain international issues.

As to Romania's closeness to one Western country or another, their preferences go as follows: 23 percent for France, 22 percent for the USA, 19 percent for Germany and 15 percent for Japan.

As for the East-European countries, their leanings range from 30 percent for the USSR, to 14 percent for Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, 5 percent for Hungary and 2 percent for Poland and Bulgaria.

Seventy-nine percent of them agree to the Romanian authorities' position on the Gulf conflict, even though it causes Romania significant economic loss. Fifty-three percent approve of the deployment of Western troops in the Gulf whereas 27 percent do not. Fifty-five percent do not agree to the use of force against Iraq, 27 percent do, 40 percent suspect Iraq of being determined to stay in Kuwait, war or no war, and 27 percent think Iraq will pull out of Kuwait to avert war.

Government Denies 'Constitutional Crisis' Rumors

LD1910174590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1557 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, October 19 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav federal government today categorically rejected as unfounded the speculations about a constitutional crisis and a possibility of a military coup in Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat today officially stated, on behalf of the Federal Government, that all such rumours were unfounded, that they added to tensions in the anyway complex situation and were harmful for both Yugoslavia's prestige in the world and for a democratic solution in the country.

The Foreign Secretariat statement set out that efforts continued to be invested in the country to resolve the crisis in the only way possible—through the strengthening and stepping-up of the reform processes and the rounding off of the system of parliamentary democracy and market—which it said was well illustrated by the current session of the Assembly of Yugoslavia.

The Foreign Secretariat statement said that, despite the extreme gravity of the problems which Yugoslavia was faced with, the Federal Government and other state bodies based their activities on the firm conviction that the crisis could be resolved only by peaceful and democratic means, in the interest of all citizens and all nations and nationalities of Yugoslavia.

The statement underscored the federal government's deep conviction that the upcoming multi-party elections would help effect a speedier democratic solution and a new democratic order of Yugoslavia.

In its efforts to step up the reform processes, as set out in the statement, the Yugoslav Federal Government counts on the full support and understanding of all partners abroad.

Markovic, Loncar Depart for Visit to Italy

LD1910184590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1519 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—Ante Markovic, president of the Federal Executive Council, left this afternoon on a one-day working visit to Italy. This evening in Verona, Markovic will, with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, consider the results of cooperation between the two neighbors over the past year and specify the guidelines for its development in the future.

The two prime ministers will exchange views on internal circumstanes in the two countries and on ways of incorporating Yugoslavia more rapidly into the EC, of which Italy is currently president. Special attention will be devoted to economic cooperation, in view of the fact that today Italy is Yugoslavia's second most important economic partner.

Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, has also departed for Verona.

Markovic: Some Seek Army Intervention

LD1910190290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1713 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Verona, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—Questions concerning the intervention of the Armed Forces in Yugoslavia were groundless—the Yugoslav Armed Forces would not interfere in the current political "federation-confederation" dispute, Yugoslav Premier Ante Markovic said in today's interview to Rome's daily LA REPUBBLICA.

Underscoring that the use of Armed Forces was exclusively in the competency of the Yugoslav state presidency, Markovic, however, assessed that "some forces are trying to create conditions for a military intervention."

In an interview given on the eve of this evening's talks with Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti, Markovic said that through a process of de-politicalization the Yugoslav Armed Forces were adapting to the changes which were underway in Europe and the world.

Speaking about the "federation-confederation" dilemma, which is politicalized through a power struggle, Markovic underscored that it would be best to put off the decision until the time was right for asking the right question. Markovic said that there was resistance to the economic reforms which his government was implementing but that they were "primarily political, and not economic in nature." It was unavoidable, he added, that local political authorities in the republics, where democratic elections have not yet been held, were trying to keep the management of the economy in their own hands.

The Yugoslav premier said that the critics of his program of reforms were incapable of offering an alternative program or to guarantee results which his government has achieved.

Loncar, Milosevic Meet Israeli Knesset Speaker

LD1910203490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1621 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia and Israel are interested in developing political relations, including diplomatic, as it was set out here today during a meeting between Yugoslav foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar and Israeli Knesset President Dov Shilansky, who arrived on an informal visit to Yugoslavia yesterday.

Loncar underscored, however, that the renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries was a process which was unfolding gradually and would be completed at a moment "most acceptable to both sides."

Yugoslavia broke off diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967 because of that country's aggression on Arab territories.

Shilansky today met also with Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Presidency President Slobodan Milosevic, on which occasion the interest of both Israel and Serbia in comprehensive cooperation, especially in the economic, scientific and cultural areas, was stressed.

Shilansky renewed the invitation to Milosevic to visit Israel, which Serbia Presidency president accepted with pleasure.

Milosevic and Shilansky underscored the strong friendship between the Serbs and the Jews, who have lived through the horrors of the fascist genocide during World War Two and have succeeded in preserving their national identity despite the immense losses in human lives.

Last Group of Yugoslavs Departs From Iraq

LD1910202290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1627 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—The last organized group of 70 Yugoslav workers and experts, engaged in some twenty projects throughout Iraq, today left Baghdad for Amman.

They are expected to leave for Belgrade by a special jet flight on Saturday [20 October].

Around 350 Yugoslav citizens are in Iraq at the moment. It is estimated that soon only around 250 representatives of Yugoslav enterprises will remain in the country.

Some 8,000 Yugoslav workers and experts were employed in Iraq up until the invasion of Kuwait on August 2. The majority of them were forced to return home due to shortages of primary products and Iraq's inability to settle its financial obligations. Of late, food shortages also influenced the speedy return of Yugoslav workers.

SFRY, Albania To Trade in Hard Currency

LD1910125890 Zagreb Domestic Servicein Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Beginning 1 January 1991, Yugoslavia and Albania will trade in hard currency. The two countries signed a new agreement about this in Tirana. According to an announcement made by the Federal Executive Committee [FEC] Secretariat for Information, Nikola Gasoski, FEC member and president of the Yugoslav side of the mixed Yugoslav-Albanian committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, stated this upon his return from Albania.

Opposition to Government Reform Investigated

AU1910172690 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 13-14 Oct 90 p 11

[Djoko Kesic article: "Ownership Holds Power"]

[Text] Cynics say that no problem which now bothers Yugoslavia is any longer objectively important: starting with Kosovo, through all other national clashes and hotbeds, the position and the role of the Yugoslav People's Army, foreign debt, and up to the inflation, and crazy national awareness and quasi-renaissance. They say that Yugoslavia will no longer exist. It is quite possible that the present-day cynics will be called realists tomorrow, but if at least a little hope is left for Yugoslavia and if all the murkiness of national conflicts and election "honest deeds" is exposed, the picture of our everyday life is much clearer, but not much nicer. It points to the key question: Has the implementation of the federal government's reform program met a hitch and where is the hitch?

We are reminded by Jacques de Larosiere, governor of the French Central Bank and well-known world expert on monetary questions: "You are at a crucial moment, but it seems to me that you do not believe in the government program. It is very important that Yugoslavia persist in this program. One should be extremely cautious in adopting decisions on wages. This is a very delicate moment."

The federal government's program of socioeconomic reform became in some respects a political pamphlet the minute the government persuaded the delegates in the SFRY Assembly to adopt the law on wages and the law on social capital transactions. The application of these two documents has begun to reduce the material basis of the political power of the monopolistic parties both in the pluralistic north and in the socialist-communist south of the country. The federal government followed the normal logic of the tested economic programs under which it is of primary importance that property gets an owner and that the state and the economy obtain some new, fresh money through selling shares in enterprises, thus increasing the capital of the impoverished economy. By the implementation of the law on wages and the law on social capital transactions, enterprises would indeed be returned to workers, this time appearing as owners and shareholders.

Pillory [subhead]

At this moment the isolated and quarreling authorities in our mini-states have reached absolute agreement: It has been simply worded as an expression of care lest social property is sold at bargain basement prices. The war has virtually started on two fronts: Most parts of the country have boycotted the law on wages—or rather that part which requires that a portion of wages be paid to workers in the form of shares—under the pretext of their serious concern for the workers' standard of living. For similar

reasons, the law on social capital transactions has virtually not even begun to be implemented.

Thus the federal government's reform has reached that crucial moment at which all the attempts to make changes in the socialist countries so far have failed. When the question of ownership relations is broached, both the reform programs and their proposers find themselves in the pillory.

A second front against the change in ownership relations has been opened by the Free Trade Unions, an organization that until yesterday was a foster child of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, but which now, under the pressure of the struggle for workers rights, in fact merely wants to strengthen its barely gained image of an equal partner in political and economic life, pursuing this goal more or less inexpertly and in a Bolshevik manner. Therefore you can believe that the Free Trade Unions are a serious and mature organization only if you want to appear ridiculous. This is certainly clear to the trade unions themselves. The trade unions demand ever higher wages, regardless of the economic ability of either the country or the enterprises, even at the price that there will be no workers tomorrow, but there certainly will be trade unions.

The trade unions, in fact, quite obediently and consistent with their original roots and habits, pursue the policy of the authorities in the republics and provinces. For example, they assert that the federal government policy endangers the interests of workers and the interests of the country. The trade union representatives assert that the way out of the crisis can be found without a recession, with higher wages and a new investment cycle.

Be Ridiculous [subhead]

This assertion certainly belongs to communist scientific fiction, for no one in a modern economy has ever been known to get out of an economic crisis without recession, through higher wages and simultaneous high investment. In this connection we must say that it was almost unpleasant to see the aforementioned Mr. de Larosiere who, virtually swearing that he was a friend of Yugoslavia, said at his recent press conference: "The economy must first recover before wages can be increased, and those firms that sustain losses cannot embark on fresh investment and expect profits, too."

It is unlikely that the authorities in the republics and provinces heard the counsels of this renowned monetary expert. They see only their goal: how to preserve, in essence, the socialist power with all the socialist machinery in society and in enterprises. Therefore their views are much closer to the plan to transform present socialist property into state property having similar powers and machinery of authority. It is more than obvious that the power is still consistently communist both in its machinery and its structure, and even its logic. The difference is that the republics try increasingly to strengthen their power over the economy, defending social property which in fact has been and remains the property of the authorities. In Slovenia and Croatia, where pluralist power has been inaugurated, the allocations from the income for the requirements of the social community were increased about nine percent in the first half of the year, and as a consequence of such transfers, the losses in the economy have increased. The economy of Serbia is in a similar position.

If social property could by some miracle become mostly private property overnight, the present governments in the republics and provinces would fall overnight, and many of the existing interethnic clashes, as well as the conflicts about the future structure of Yugoslavia, would cease at once. Instead of political calculations, the interests of the market and capital would impose the priority of economic interests, and enterprises would be set up so as to strive for profit and not for maximum spending. Banks would not grant loans for consumption but for profitable investments....

Therefore the present authorities do not like privatization of property. And unless privatization is carried out in our country, we will live—having cynical or realistic views—in a socialist Bolshevik system in which national or class enemies are more necessary than the bread we eat.

Mesic Rejects 'Bolshevist Umbrella' for Croatia

AU2010200090 Vienna Television Service in German 1830 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Interview with Stjepan Mesic, Croatian member of the SFRY State Presidency, by Alfred Schwarz; place and date not given—recorded; Mesic statements in Serbo-Croatian with superimposed German translation]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Schwarz] Croatia is striving for its independence. However, Europe has indicated that it is rather interested in a joint Yugoslav state. Is Croatia not afraid that its independence might isolate it from Europe?

[Mesic] No, Croatia and Slovenia want to organize our coexistence in a different way. We want to enter Europe in the same way as all other countries entered the European communities. If other parts of Yugoslavia also want this, it would, of course, be good if we all were to enter the European communities together. We do not want to accept the Bolshevist umbrella that Serbia wants to force on us. It has outlasted its use. Under such an umbrella, we cannot go to Europe. Europe would also not accept us in this form.

Mesic Claims No Threat of Coup or Civil War

AU2010153090 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1100 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Interview with Stjepan Mesic, Croatian member of the SFRY State Presidency, by Alfred Schwarz; place and date not given—recorded; Mesic statements in Serbo-Croatian with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Schwarz] Mr. Mesic, you have now been admitted to the State Presidency against the Serbs' will. Do you now expect a counterreaction by Serbia?

[Mesic] I do not believe that Serbia's pressure on us will increase now. However, some attempts will certainly be made by the Serbs. But the pressure will certainly decrease because other republics are also prepared to adopt the Croatian model. Even some Serbian deputies expressed their willingness to do so. There will be mutual fighting. But the pressure on Croatia will certainly decrease. Serbia is now really largely isolated.

[Schwarz] Mr. Mesic, in Croatia there are now rumors about a coup and a possibly imminent civil war. Are the Croatians really afraid of Serbia?

[Mesic] No, Croatia is not afraid because the Croatian people are so conscious of a democratic solution that we are not anxious or afraid. We also do not fear a coup or a civil war only because the Serbs want to force a completely outdated state model on us. Time is working for us.

[Schwarz] Will you become new president of Yugoslavia in May next year, as stipulated by the Constitution, or will Yugoslavia in its present form no longer exist at that time?

[Mesic] I want to put it like this: For the pessimists, I will be the president of the State Presidency in May next year, while for the optimists I will be the first president of a confederation.

Weapons Stolen From Army Consignment in Croatia

LD1910201990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1852 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Zagreb, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—The Sibenik district judge announced tonight that a military shipment was stolen last night, this time at Knin's railway station. As Croatian radio reports in its newscast tonight, four containers were broken in and nine 7.62-mm automatic rifles stolen. The consignment also comprised four grenade launchers and five more automatic rifles but the thieves did not touch them. The stolen weapons had been sent from the Technical Maintenance Institute of Hadzici and were addressed to the military post box 1318 in Knin as a regular consignment, without any escort or extra precautions. Instead of being received by the addressee yesterday they had been left overnight without any security at the Knin railway station.

In the course of his investigation the Sibenik district judge, as reported by Croatian radio, also inspected the spot near the village of Cenici where the Split-Knin railway line was mined and the explosive damaged two rail sections, 83 and 35 cm long respectively.

Stolen Weapons Reportedly Returned

AU1910202290 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Report by Milorad Jovic from Knin]

[Text] The talks that Joze Slokar, federal minister of transportation and communications, had with representatives of the communities and political parties of the Knin region, have failed to bear any results. Railroad and road transportation will continue along the course it has taken so far. The efforts made by Slokar and his counterparts in the governments of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, as well as representatives of Sibenik transportation enterprises, with a view to convincing the people there that problems with transportation must be solved independently had no results.

Representatives of the Serbian population are aware of the damage and the possible (?further) consequences of the traffic blockade in the Knin region, but are even more aware of the threat looming over this region from Croatia. They are convinced that no problem can be solved separately from the general political situation. Traffic will be normalized when conditions for normal life are ensured for everybody in Croatia.

Let us also say something about the weapons that had disappeared and then were found. The Council of the National Committee Against Violence Against Serbs has announced that the people of the Kosovo Valley learned that the weapons transported by rail had been meant for the further armament of the members of the Croatian Democratic Community in Sibenik. When they learned that the weapons belong to the Yugoslav People's Army and that their purpose is to be used to protect Yugoslavia's sovereignty and integrity, the National Committee Council convinced the people of the Kosovo Valley to give the weapons back. This was done today, whereby this people expressed their confidence in the Yugoslav People's Army, it is said at the end of the announcement issued by the Council of the National Committee Against Violence Against Serbs.

Explosion Closes Lika Railway Line in Croatia

LD2010122990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1118 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Knin, 20 Oct (TANJUG)—According to information from Knin railway station, at 0655 [0555 GMT] this morning unidentified persons have again caused an explosion on the Lika line between Plavno and Zrmanja, near Pribudic. Since the damage is not great, it is expected that repairs will be carried out in the course of the day.

As a result of barricades, after it was cleared for a short time, the Knin-Zadar line is again out of use, while daily freight transport by rail is operating with minor difficulties in the direction of Split on the Una line.

Domljan Discusses Draft of Militiamen, Situation

AU1910204190 Vienna Television Service in German 1830 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Interview with Croatian Assembly President Zarko Domljan by Alfred Schwarz; place and date not given; Domljan statements in Serbo-Croatian with superimposed German translation]

[Excerpts] [Schwarz] In Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, the reserve militiamen were drafted for service. The real policemen give them instructions and brief them on their duties. According to the Interior Ministry, the draft is a matter of routine and has nothing to do with the conflict with Serbia. [passage omitted]

However, Domljan, president of the Croatian Assembly, is more open:

[Begin recording] [Domljan] Because of the special circumstances in Croatia we need more militiamen at present. There is currently a psychological and propaganda warfare between the individual Yugoslav republics. Of course, this is often the beginning of a real conflict. However, we believe that reason will carry the day.

[Schwarz] Will Croatia continue to recognize the State Presidium in Belgrade in the future?

[Domljan] It is possible that Croatia will not recognize the legitimacy of the State Presidium in Belgrade in the future, even in the very near future, if the State Presidium continues its violent and brutal behavior. [end recording]

Croatian Assembly Recommendations To Be Reviewed

LD1810210590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1631 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 18 Oct (TANJUG)—The Internal Affairs Committee of the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber has recommended that the Croatian Assembly should reexamine the appropriateness of certain measures and all cases of overstepping powers by certain officials of the organs of administration in Croatia. In the conclusions of this committee on the political-security situation in Croatia, adopted at today's session, it is stated that these measures gave rise to the anxiety of the Serbian nation in Croatia. The committee has sent its conclusions to the Federal Chamber for tomorrow's debate on the political-security situation in Yugoslavia.

The conclusions stress that the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly should recommend to the Croatian Assembly that to overcome the present situation it should take measures and offer guarantees that a dialogue between representatives of the government of the Republic of Croatia and the legitimately elected representatives of the municipalities predominantly inhabited by Serbs will be set up on a democratic and equal foundation. This would, it is assessed, contribute to the soonest possible creation of conditions for the removal of all forms of blockade, the removal of barricades on the roads and railway lines, and the return of seized weapons.

These conclusions were adopted following difficult discussions in which there was a great deal of exclusivity and polarization of ideas on whether democratic dialogue should be started before the return of seized weapons, or whether talks between the Croatian authorities and Serbian representatives should be conditional upon the return of weapons. [passage omitted]

Croatia's Dalmations To Form National Party

LD1810141390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1746 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Split, 17 Oct (TANJUG)—Following lengthy preparations, a meeting of a nine-member initiative committee decided today in Split to launch the Dalmation National Party [DNS] at a founding assembly in mid-December.

A draft party program focuses on individual and civil liberties and is aimed at people of goodwill unburdened by national and religious affiliation. The party will urge that Dalmatia regains the status of region, of which the new Croatian Constitution stripped it. With the aim of rallying citizens who regard Dalmatia as their homeland, the DNS will promote enterprising spirit, free market, and ecological issues and cooperate with all parties with similar programs.

The DNS advantage lies in its orientation to the humane revival of the national way of life and to our Dalmation traditions. We have decided to oppose centralization, which we view as a return to bureaucratic relations, i.e. bureaucratic society, at the expense of togetherness of the Croats and other Yugoslav nations, the chairman of the DNS initiative committee, Slobodan Ozretic, stresses.

Croatian Leaders Warned Against Pursuing Conflict

LD1810170690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1626 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Oct (TANJUG)—Right up until this spring the Croatian leaders were spreading lies that the Army was preparing exercises in line with a scenario aimed at introducing a reign of terror and putting an end to democratic processes in two "disobedient" republics. Now they themselves are organizing broad-scale exercises of "their territorial defense troops," police forces, and border guards, "that is, unstable, areas," NARODNA ARMIJA states in its tomorrow's [18 October] issue under the headline "Consistent in Their Inconsistency."

This is an obvious show of force, and could easily lead to intranational armed conflicts with unforseeable consequences, according to Ivan Matovic, commentator of the military weekly. He adds: "While accusing the Army of being behind attempts to militarize society, they are hastely forming national army and police units, are striving to draw illegally armed units into conflict with the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] and proclaim themselves invincible."

Individuals and oligarchies equate their own interests with the interests of their nations, and claim that their own conflicts with the JNA—which is the only objective obstacle to the realization of their selfish, separatist, and secessionist goals—are conflicts between the Army and the people, the author notes.

All those who speculate about the social role of the JNA and its possible reaction, must know that it is capable and willing to discharge its constitutionally prescribed obligations at any moment with all necessary means, the text concludes.

Croatia Assembly Appoints Judicial Officials

LD0610173790 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] From the [Croatian] Assembly we have the news that the Sociopolitical chamber today carried out several elections, appointments, and dismissals within its competence. Six members were elected to the committee for the (?restoration) of Dubrovnik which is headed by Dr. Franjo Tudjman.

In continuing its work Milko Gajski, Croatia Supreme Court president, was relieved of his duties at his own request because of his retirement. Rudolf Francula was elected as judge of the Croatian Supreme Court. The following were dismissed and acting replacements appointed: Andjelko Busic, Croatia Administrative Court president, Mladen Gajer, republican public prosecutor; Ivica [name indistinct], republican Council for Minor Offenses president; Vojislav Mamula, Croatia Economic Court president; and Slobodan Mikulic, Court of Associated Labor president.

According to the proposal of the assembly commission for elections and appointments the presidents of 14 district courts in Croatia, 90 presidents of municipal courts, and all district public prosecutors and a large number of judges were dismissed and acting replacements appointed.

Opacic of Knin Joins Serb Renewal Movement

AU1510191490 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 11 Oct 90 p 4

[Unattributed TANJUG report: "Opacic Has Joined Draskovic"]

[Text] Knin, 10 Oct—Delegate to the Sociopolitical Chamber of the Croatian Assembly, Jovan Opacic from Knin, made it known today that a short time ago he had become a member of Vuk Draskovic's Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO).

Opacic did not explain what his relations with the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) are now. He was that party's candidate in the elections for the Croatian Assembly last spring.

Serb Coordination Committee Set Up in SRSJ

LD1810161890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1549 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Oct (TANJUG)—Within the framework of the Alliance of Reformist Forces of Yugoslavia (SRSJ), a coordination committee for Serbia has been set up. The committee will prepare the founding assembly of the republican SRSJ, scheduled for the beginning of November.

It was announced today that last night's meeting with Ante Markovic,, chairman of the SRSJ Main Committee, elected Vojin Dimitrijevic as chairman of the coordination committee. The following well-known personalities are members of the coordination committee: Branko Baletic, Bogdan Bogdanovic, Filip David, Rajko Danilovic, Milan Dragovic, Mirko Kovac, Ljubomir Madzar, Branislav Milosevic, Orhan Nevzati, Borka Pavicevic, Vesna Pesic, Radosin Rajovic, Vidosav Stevanovic, Milorad Savicevic, Dobrila Smiljanic, Ljuba Tadic, Bora Todorovic, Miljenko Zrelec, Petar Zivadinovic, among others.

Bosnia-Hercegovina Rejects Republics' Confederation

LD1910142590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1056 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—The Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina favours the preservation of Yugoslavia and cannot accept any combination providing for its entering into a confederation with two republics or into a federation with two or three republics, the republic's president Obrad Piljak said in an interview to the Sarajevo weekly NEDELJA.

Bosnia-Hercegovina has rejected a proposal by Slovenia for forming a confederation of three republics—Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, said Piljak.

The reason for its move lies in the fact that Bosnia-Hercegovina is the republic of three equal peoples—Moslems, who account for about 40 per cent of the population, and Serbs and Croats, who account for 30 and 20 per cent respectively.

Many Serbs and Croats live in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and there is a large Serbian community in Croatia, said Piljak, adding that precisely for that reason Bosnia-Herzegovina does not want to align with any of the two possible groups of republics.

At all times, Bosnia-Hercegovina must maintain equal ties with Serbia and Croatia, he underlined.

Slovenia is the only republic which has placed its cards on the table, said Piljak, while Serbia's president Slobodan Milosevic and Croatia's Franjo Tudjman "often hide something, counting on trumps up their sleeves which they intend to play when the time comes."

I told Milosevic and Tudjman that, as reprsentatives of the two largest nations whose members live throughout Yugoslavia, they have to sacrifice some of their national interests, as well as something of their own pride and convictions, said Piljak.

Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency Candidates Named

LD1910220890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1626 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Summary] Sarajevo, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—Seven political parties and one independent trade union put forward their candidates for members of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency at the multiparty elections which are taking place on 18 November.

The candidates are the following: Nikola Koljevic, Biljana Plavsic, and Ivan Ceresnjes from the Serbian Democratic Party; Nijaz Durakovic, Fejsal Hrustanovic, Mirko Pejanovic, Nikola Stojanovic, Ivo Komsic, Zoran Perkovic, and Zlatko Lagumdzija from the Bosnia-Hercegovina League of Communists-the Socialist Democratic Party and the Bosnia-Hercegovina Democratic Socialist Alliance which put forward the entire list; Alija Izetbegovic, Fikret Abdic, and Ejup Ganic from the Party of Democratic Action; and Stjepan Kljuic and Franjo Boras from the Croatian Democratic Union. Bahrudin Bijedic is the candidate of the Independent Trade Union. The Muslim Bosnian Organization put forward Adil Zulfikarpasic. The Alliance of Reform Forces for Bosnia-Hercegovina put forward the entire list: Nenad Kecmanovic, Ranko Zrilic, Dzemal Sokolovic, Dzevat Haznadar, Tadej Mateljan, Franjo Boskovic, and Josip Pejakovic. The last ones to put forward their candidacies are representatives of the Socialist Youth Alliance-Democratic Alliance of Bosnia-Hercegovina—Nazif Gljiva, Martin Raguz, Azemina Vukovic, and Djordje Latinovic.

Seven members will be elected to the republican Presidency: two each among the Serbs, Muslims, and Croatians and one representative of other nations living in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Ban on Public Gatherings in Foca Lifted

LD1910224390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1643 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—On the basis of the Bosnia- Hercegovina Socialist Republic Presidency's analysis, Muhamed Besic, Bosnia-Hercegovina republican secretary for internal affairs, decided today to annul the decision adopted earlier to ban public meetings in Foca municipality.

A republican Secretariat for Internal Affairs statement says that this decision comes into effect today at 2000.

The decision to ban public meetings was adopted on 8 September this year because of the nationality conflict-ridden situation in Foca municipality.

Bosnia-Hercegovina Proposes New Constitution

LD1910221690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1831 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—The state presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina today proposed to the republican Assembly to work out a new constitution which should guarantee sovereignty and integrity of the republic and its full equality with other republics within Yugoslavia.

The Presidency's proposal sets out that Bosnia-Hercegovina wants to build a modern and effective Yugoslav community, based on mutual interests and principle of sovereignty of the republics together and on an equal footing with the other republics. Under the proposal, the common interests and the way they will be realized within Yugoslavia would be determined equally by all republics.

Bosnia-Hercegovina's state Presidency assessed as completely unacceptable attempts to form parallel authority in the republic, such as the Serbian National Council. Stating that such actions separated the Serbian people from other nations in Bosnia- Hercegovina, the Presidency said that authorized organs should use all legal measures to prevent activities which are against the law and which directly jeopardize the sovereignty of the republic.

Democratic Alliance of Kosovo Assails Government

LD1910190590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1349 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Having reiterated all his previous demands, he [Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo] asked the SFRY Assembly and the Federal Executive Committee today to do everything in their power to ensure that delegates of the SFRY Assembly are able to return to the province. Former delegates of the dissolved Kosovo Assembly, after the illegal proclamation of the so-called "constitution of the republic of Kosovo" in Kacanik on 7 September, found shelter in our republics in the northwest of the country. Rugova takes the view that they did not commit any criminal offense.

Asked whether criminal charges had been brought against him, Rugova replied that he had received no

official notification of this and that these were probably rumors, i.e. "police propaganda aimed at taking the pulse of the Albanian nation."

In connection with Vuk Draskovic's statement that he is ready to have a dialogue both with Tudjman and Rugova, the leader of the Kosovo Democratic Allliance replied that he too was for a dialogue, but without setting any conditions. He stated that he does not object to the formation of new parties in Kosovo, not even to the recently announced Christian Democratic Party of Albanians [Demohriscanska partija Albanaca], on the condition that their activities are political and not religious.

Today journalists also recieved copies of a protest note signed by 10 scientific workers from Kosovo who were not allowed visas for a trip to Tirana, where they were allegedly invited by the Albanian Academy of Sciences to attend a symposium on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the death of Albanian poet Naim Frasheri.

'Albanian Demo-Christian Party' Formed in Kosovo

AU1910080390 Skopje FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 14 Oct 90 pp 1, 4-5

[Blerim Reka, Emin Azemi report: "Kosovo in the Eyes of the World"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Initiating Council of the Albanian Democratic-Christian Party Formed

The 15-member Initiating Council of the Albanian Demo-Christian Party [Partia Shqiptare Demokristiane—PSHDK] was formed yesterday evening on the premises of the Collegium Cantorum choir in Pristina. The sociologist Dr. Gjergj Rrapi was elected chairman and the journalist and political expert Ramush Tahiri was elected secretary. On the same occasion, a coordinating council was also formed, which will concern itself with developing the party's organization in all parts of Kosovo, Yugoslavia, and abroad, wherever there is interest in membership of this party. Several councils will operate within the framework of this coordinating body.

The emergence on the scene of this party is of multiple importance for the Albanian people, first of all because the policy program of the PSHDK justifies the party's formation by the failure of postwar politics to fulfill promises of human freedoms, especially those of the Albanian people and regarding their right to self-determination. The policy program goes on to state that the aim of founding this party is to make the Albanians equal with other peoples in Yugoslavia, Europe, and the world. Bearing in mind that Christian democratic parties are very active with their programs in Europe and the world at large, and are also in power in some countries (Italy, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Holland, etc.), it inevitably means that these parties will be obliged to help the Albanian people in Kosovo and beyond in attaining their inalienable right to self-determination.

The PSHDK's policy program will have the following areas of activity: the spheres of politics and the economy, social policy, education, and the preservation of nature and the environment. It is expected that this program will be professionally and comprehensively further enriched before the founding assembly. Meanwhile, a news conference is planned for Kosovo and Yugoslav journalists next Monday [15 Oct] in order to report in more substance about this party's goals, program, and activities.

The PSHDK is a political, not a religious party. For the Albanians, it will transcend ethnocultural groups, in the tradition of European civilization. The two main aims of the party's activity will be to return to their Albanians their lost ethnocultural and political dignity, and a high-level of ideological understanding within the nation.

Azem Vlasi, Others Officially Acquitted in Kosovo

AU1810103890 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 11 Oct 90 p 4

[Sh. Ukaj report: "All Innocent"]

[Text] Pristina—The explanation of the acquittal of Azem Vlasi and 14 managers and workers of the Trepca mine, who were tried in Titova Mitrovica, is presented on 40 pages, which did not include personal data or charges. The explanation was handed to them six months after their 24 April release.

The Titova Mitrovica District Court concluded that it was not proved that the accused had committed the criminal offense of which they were, and that they are therefore acquitted.

The explanation states, among other things, that "throughout the trial the accused defended themselves by claiming that the protest of workers and citizens during November 1988 and the miners' strike in March 1989 were not counterrevolutionary and nationalist, that these protests were not organized but spontaneous, and that they were organized by the workers and students themselves who were not manipulated by and were never in any way connected with the activities of nationalists and Albanian separatists."

As we have learned, Spasoje Zafirovic, the prosecutor has already appealed to the Supreme Court of Kosovo. However, the accused will also launch an appeal because they think that they should be acquitted not because of the lack of evidence, but because the activities mentioned in the indictment do not represent a criminal act.

Macedonian Parties Call For Election Postponement

LD1910184890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1210 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Skopje, 19 Oct (TANJUG)—One month before elections begin in Macedonia, eight parties in the republic asked the Macedonian Assembly to postpone the municipal elections and extend the deadline for the registration of candidates for the future parliament.

Representatives of the People's Party, the Movement for All-Macedonian Action, the Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity [Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Jedinstvo—VMRO], the Christian Democratic, Workers, and workers and farmers parties, as well as the League for Democracy and the Democratic Union of Farmers, point out that—due to administrative problems—these parties have not been able to put forward their candidates in all electoral units. The representatives of these parties consider it unnecessary that the internal affairs organs should have to issue a certificate on the number of party members on the basis of membership application forms, because this violates the principle of secret ballot.

U.S. Ambassador Meets With Macedonian Leaders

LD1810173390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1721 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Skopje, 17 Oct (TANJUG)—The U.S. ambassador to Yugoslavia, Warren Zimmermann, visited Macedonia today for working meetings with the president of the Macedonian Presidency, Vladimir Mitkov, and the president of the Macedonian Assembly, Vulnet Starov. The talks focused on the further advancement of economic and cultural cooperation between the United States and Macedonia. Zimmerman was interested to find out more about how Macedonia sees the future order in Yugoslavia and its place in it.

The leaders of several Macedonian political parties also met with the U.S. ambassador. Warren Zimmerman's meeting with the president of the Macedonian League of Communists-Party for Democratic Transformation, Petar Gisev, attracted special attention.

Kramberger Forms New Political Party in Slovenia

LD1910122590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1704 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Summary] Ljubljana, 18 Oct (TANJUG)—The National Alliance-Freedom [Narodni Savez-Sloboda] is the name of a new party presented in Ljubljana today by former presidential candidate Ivan Kramberger. According to the party program, it is a democratic oranization advocating political pluralism in a rule-of-law, independent state of Slovenia, which anyone living in Slovenia and all Slovenes may join. Kramberger advocates the abolition of military service and proposes that Slovenia join NATO.

Kucan Views Slovenia's Sovereignty, Secession

AU1910205690 Ljubljana NEODVISNI DNEVNIK in Slovene 11 Oct 90 p 5

["Highlights" from interview with Milan Kucan, president of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia, during a Slovenia Television program; date not given: "No Subsequent Correction Will Be Possible!"]

[Text] I have expected the SFRY Presidency to submit both concepts to the Assembly, that is, to prepare its federal concept and to advise Croatia and Slovenia to change their confederal draft if they want to. However, Serbian politicians obviously want to force on the others a solution to Yugoslavia's future before their elections. In this way, they would remove Slovenia from events connected with Yugoslavia's future. To seek some compromise between the two concepts would only make matters worse.

Slovenia's sovereignty is already indicated in the adopted decisions. In my opinion, at this moment we are not yet sufficiently prepared for it. There are still too many euphoric views. The decision on sovereignty is very important and no subsequent correction to it will be possible. We must agree about matters which are in the national interest and not those in the parties' interest. This is a reality that we must respect unless something dramatic happens beforehand.

It is possible that the confederate alternative will begin to function and to become feasible after parliamentary elections are held in all the republics. We in Slovenia must be aware of the international aspects of the decision on sovereignty. Slovenia is too small to assert itself in the world; its chances are much greater when it is connected with others.

We and Croats have many joint interests, but they do not coincide on all points. This is understandable, because there are specific circumstances in Croatia for the Serbian population living there and for the Croatian population living in Bosnia-Hercegovina. We both agree that it is impossible to change borders within Yugoslavia, although this is envisaged by the new Serbian Constitution. The right to secede which involves territorial delimitation would lead to civil war.

A referendum on Slovenia's secession may come into consideration after the new Slovene constitution is adopted.

I agree that the Serbian Constitution is a constitution of a sovereign state.

The Ljubljana bank possesses around $2.5 billion in foreign currencies, $1.5 billion of which is kept in Slovenia. The people are not taking foreign currency from their accounts because they want to buy something,

but because of the uncertain political situation. Savings accounts are guaranteed by the state, which is the federation at the moment, and, if it ceases to exist, the Republic of Slovenia will take the guarantee upon itself.

We are responsible before the international community and we shall agree either about a joint road or separate ones. I think that the international community should respect our decision. In order to survive for six months as a sovereign state we would need $1 billion and we hope that the international community would provide it for us.

It is the responsibility of all politicians to ensure a more pleasant life for the citizens.

'Democratic Party' of Montenegro Reemerges

AU0710162290 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Sep 90 p 5

[S. Vukasinovic report: "Privatization Above All"]

[Text]—Titograd—Following a split in the Democratic Party of Montenegro, the Democratic Party, a party of the center, as stated in its program, has been founded again. Members of the party claim that the party's only aim is to establish a democratic state in which the most important thing will be to protect natural rights. As regards economic issues, the party favors privatization, that is, the return of the property that has been plundered by the communists. In fact, the party strives for a modern capitalist society in which private property will constitute a market mechanism. Since this is a party of sovereign individuals, national affiliation is not taken into consideration. The party sees Yugoslavia as a democratic community whose external borders are guaranteed by international law, while the question of internal borders is completely open.

Vojvodina Journalists Protest Media Appointments

AU1310215390 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 6 Oct 90 p 4

[Report by Jovo Paripovic: "'Circus Moves by the Government'"]

[Excerpts] Novi Sad—Almost 200 journalists from Vojvodina editorial offices "accompanied" a three-member delegation of the Independent Journalists Association, composed of Mile Isakov and Laslo Tot of Novi Sad Television and Mihalj Ramac of DNEVNIK, in a peaceful demonstration march from the center of Novi Sad to the Assembly of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. They handed to the Assembly of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina a demand by the journalists gathered in connection with the government appointing new leading people in the Vojvodina media.

"To Annul the Appointments"

The independent journalists demand that the Vojvodina Assembly reexamine the decisions appointing leading people to the Vojvodina media and annul them because of the illegal procedure that was followed. In this way it should make it possible for the jobs to be advertised anew, in conformity with the law and the Constitution. A request was handed to the assembly to recall Verona Adam Bokros, president of the Assembly, and the provincial Executive Council because of a number of illegal and undemocratic premeditated acts committed while taking over the founders' rights in the media and because of the replacement of old and the appointment of new leaders in these media.

Other Protest Too

The protests of Vojvodina journalists have also been joined by the Independent Trade Union of Belgrade Radio and Television and the journalists of Belgrade DUGA. While the journalists in Novi Sad held their protest meeting, a similar meeting was also held in Subotica. Sombor journalists sent telegrams conveying their protests of the government moves and the replacement of the leading teams in Vojvodina media. [passage omitted]

Silence in Newspapers

We have learned that the new owner of the media, the Vojvodina government, has taken measures to ensure that this protest of the Independent Journalists Association remains unnoticed, and it instructed all the editorial offices in Vojvodina not to report the gathering at all. Unofficially we also learned that Premier Radoman Bozovic ordered a strengthening of the public peace and order forces in the center of Novi Sad and in front of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina Assembly. Public security personnel were noticed in larger numbers than usual in front of the Assembly building, but they had no occasion to intervene because the journalists dispersed peacefully after Mile Isakov informed them that their requests had been handed in and included in assembly procedure.